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RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra pushes back against expectations of future interest-rate increases, **saying it is 'premature' to discuss policy outlook given ongoing geopolitical uncertainties,** P 11

France announces first confirmed case of Ebola identified in its territory, a doctor who had flown back from Democratic Republic of Congo, which is fighting a major outbreak

Ukrainian forces strike a major natural gas processing plant and two key satellite communications centres in their latest night attacks on Russia, Ukraine's General Staff says, INSIDE JACKET

Three candidates endorsed by Zohran Mamdani sweep to victory in Democratic congressional primaries, showing that the coalition which powered the New York City mayor to a surprising victory last year is gaining strength, INSIDE JACKET

In Nov, Noel to exit boards of 6 Tata companies

Mumbai: Come Nov, Noel Tata will step down from the boards of six Tata group companies as he turns 70, triggering the conglomerate's retirement age limit for non-executive directors, **reports Reeba Zachariah.**

Noel, who chairs Tata Trusts, the foundations that control the group's holding company, Tata Sons, will exit Titan, Tata Steel, Tata Investment Corporation, Voltas, Tata International and Trent on Nov 12. He will retain his seat on Tata Sons, where the retirement age cap does not apply to directors nominated by Tata Trusts.

▶Triggers shake-up, P 11

For infra upgrade, state e-services to shut till Fri night

Karnataka's State Data Centre will be shut from tonight to Friday night for critical maintenance, infrastructure upgrade and security enhancements. Officials said online applications through various govt portals, including Seva Sindhu, can't be processed. The data centre supports citizen service platforms, online certificate services, e-office systems and govt databases. TNN

Man stabbed to death after row in Mumbai local

A man (30) stabbed a co-passenger (21) to death with a knife on a local train in Mumbai, allegedly after being told off for opening a door during heavy rain. A video recorded by a passenger showed the attacker brandishing the knife later and threatening onlookers. Police said the accused has been arrested. P5

5 drown in Cauvery while taking photo

Five members of a family were swept away in Cauvery river while trying to take a photo at Muthathi, a tourist spot in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district, Wednesday. The family from Channapatna in Bengaluru South district visited Muttetharaya temple in Muthathi before reaching the river. P 3

India's first pvt gold mine gets running

Andhra Pradesh has begun producing gold after bringing back to life a mine that had been inactive for over two millennia, with the launch of India's first private gold mining project at Jonnagiri in Kurnool. AP govt will get a 4% royalty on the value of gold produced. P7

Ancient civilisations in NCERT Class 9 text

Modern world history like the French and Russian revolutions and Nazism will not be part of NCERT's class IX syllabus and will move to class X. The new class IX textbook will feature ancient civilisations of India, Mesopotamia, Egypt & China. P6

Trump dismissed own govt's data, slapped tariffs on India

Vance Mooted Indian Troops In Ukraine: Book

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump dismissed data presented by his own commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, as 'bullshit numbers' and went ahead with steep tariffs on India, according to a newly released book.

▶India, US discuss ways to ink trade deal, P 11

The book also says vice-president J D Vance mooted deployment of Indian troops as part of a peacekeeping mission in Ukraine. Trump rejected it, saying, "Indians do not ever pay for anything."

According to the book, 'Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump', by NYT reporters Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan, Lutnick presented data from the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) during a White House meeting, showing India's tariffs on American goods were significantly lower than Trump has long believed. The numbers simply did not support the sky-high tariffs Trump wanted to impose on India, among the many countries he has accused of "ripping off the US". Lutnick's contention did not go down well with the president.

Lutnick patiently explained that the figures came from USTR, but Trump was unmoved. "No, these are bullshit numbers. These are f******g bullshit," he remonstrated. Lutnick then turned to US trade representative Jamieson Greer for backup, saying, "Right, Jamieson? Jamieson, say these numbers are real. Jamieson, speak up." Greer, choosing professional longevity over statistical integrity, allegedly said absolutely nothing.

Lutnick then turned to White House economic adviser and tariff attack-dog Peter Navarro, who naturally sided with Trump.

House Speaker Mike Johnson was the lone voice of sanity, warning that unchecked tariffs would decimate the American automotive sector. "Okay, fine, I'll own it," Trump reportedly replied, and own it he did. The result was a tariff regime that eventually slapped a staggering 50% rate on New Delhi, the highest imposed on any major trading partner and a move that sent US-India relations into a tailspin.

▶'Don't pay': Inside jacket

TRUMP'S GLOBAL APPROVAL TANKS

% who have belief in Trump to do the right thing on world affairs

	No Confidence	Confidence
AMONG LOWEST		
Malaysia	87	13
Pakistan	82	12
Mexico	88	11
Sweden	89	11
Turkiye	92	6
West Bank/ E Jerusalem	87	4
AMONG HIGHEST		
Philippines	29	68
Israel	33	66
Nigeria	31	65
Kenya	36	63
Ghana	33	54
Hungary	55	44
Colombia	53	43
India	36	39
Sri Lanka	51	35

Source: Pew Research Center

INSIDE JACKET

Can't stop pvt med colleges charging more than govt's: SC

Ruling In Case Of EWS Student Allotted Gen Seat

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Wednesday said that private medical colleges cannot be prevented from charging higher fees than govt ones and forcing them to do so would result in their closure and harm to medical education.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi while hearing a plea by an EWS student who was allotted a general category seat in a private medical college where he would be required to pay nearly Rs 19 lakh as annual tuition fee, noted private medical colleges are barred from taking capitation fees and are self-financing. "Annual tuition fee can't be the same in a private college and a govt one," Justice Nagarathna said.

▶'Edu to suffer: Inside jkt

IN THE COURTS

- **Gujarat HC orders govt to take call in 6 months on remission plea** filed by Mohd Asghar Ali, shooter in **Haren Pandya murder case** | P 5
- K'taka **HC quashes order directing return of nine rescued dogs** to their original owner, who faces allegations of animal cruelty | P 2
- **Delhi high court allows a 15-year-old rape survivor to proceed with medical termination** of her pregnancy, recognising her right to life
- Tejpal acquittal case: Goa govt asks **why was 2-word 12.16am text ignored** | P 6

Rajesh Exports: ED flags ₹3k cr transactions

New Delhi: A day after it searched nine premises of Rajesh Exports Ltd, Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Wednesday it has found suspicious foreign transactions of Rs 3,000 crore through UAE, could not find any evidence of a Rs 1,035 crore investment it claimed to have made in African mines. The agency added it found that the MD of the company, which reported a consolidated revenue of Rs 7.7 lakh crore, was paid Rs 17,000 as monthly salary, while its CFO had not been paid anything since 2020.

ED claimed to have found evidence of suspicious block trade, including over Rs 600 crore siphoned out of India through share manipulation using NRI 'benamidars'.

"Investigation revealed opaque netting and set-offs of large foreign trade receivables against foreign trade payables of around Rs 3,000 crore", according to ED. TNN

▶'No record': Inside jkt

IAEA: Iran N-site inspections to go ahead soon

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog will carry out inspections in Iran soon following an interim peace accord between the United States and Iran, but modalities have yet to be finalised, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi said Wednesday. Kazem Gharibabadi, a deputy foreign minister in Iran, however, rejected IAEA chief's statements. Gharibabadi said nuclear site inspections would only be possible after a final US-Iran deal. The two countries signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding last week setting out broad agreements in principle to end the war. INSIDE JACKET

Iran prez invites Modi to Khamenei's funeral; high-level rep may go

Times News Network

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to attend the funeral of former supreme leader **Ali Khamenei**, official sources confirmed.

While Modi himself is unlikely to travel, it's learnt that govt is contemplating a high-level representation from India keeping in mind the need to reassure Tehran about the importance it attaches to India's "civilisational" ties with Iran marked by increasingly significant connectivity and people-to-people linkages.

Khamenei was killed in US-Israel strikes shortly after the war began on Feb 28.

▶Delicate balance, P 5

30 India-bound ships cross Strait, 26 waiting

So far 30 India-bound ships have crossed Strait of Hormuz and 26 wait to cross the critical route, shipping ministry sources said. While half of the ships that have transited the strait carried LPG and LNG, eight had bulk cargo. P5

Sensex gains 790 pts, crude below $75/barrel

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply by about 1% each Wednesday, propelled by softening crude oil prices and hectic buying in bank, financial & IT shares.

Besides, growing expectations of an India-US trade deal and foreign funds turning net buyers in the domestic market supported the firm trend in equities, traders said. The 30-share BSE sensex jumped 790 points to settle at 76,991. During the day, it surged 990 points to 77,190. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 198 points to end at 24,021. Meanwhile, crude oil prices fell below the $75-per-barrel mark Wednesday as Strait of Hormuz reopened. TNN

36 hrs on, B'luru triple murder accused held in Pondy; partner at large

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Software engineer M Shwetha was arrested by Bengaluru police from a hotel room in Puducherry on Wednesday, two days after she and her live-in partner allegedly murdered her parents and sister at the couple's Seegehalli apartment in east Bengaluru.

However, the hunt is still on for Swetha's partner J Kenneth. The duo had escaped from their flat after stabbing to death Swetha's father Somasundar, mother Muthulakshmi and sister Supriya.

▶'On signal, lover pushed Pune realtor off cliff', P 5

Preliminary inquiry revealed Shwetha detested her family, particularly her mother who disapproved of her live-in relationship and the fact that she had run up more than Rs 30 lakh in bank loans.

Shwetha said it was primarily her mother's attitude that forced her to leave home and move in with Kenneth.

"My mother never gave us the freedom that we deserved. Right from high school days till the end of engineering studies, I lived the life of a prisoner. My friends and classmates would often tease me and also sympathise with me over my condition. I lived like an orphan. This made me hate my mother," she told the cops.

▶'Alone killed kin', P 3

'HATED MOTHER'

- Hours after her arrest, Shwetha tells Bengaluru cops that she **"lived like an orphan and hated her mother"**
- **Admits that she attacked her parents & sister** with a knife. Claims her partner **Kenneth watched helplessly**
- Cops refute her version, say **multiple stab injuries on all victims indicate** that more than one person was involved in the attack

ED raids excise officer in illegal wealth case

Bengaluru/Belagavi/Mysuru: Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday conducted simultaneous raids at multiple locations linked to senior excise official Y Manjunath in alleged money-laundering cases. He is related to Karnataka's politically powerful Jarkiholi brothers.

Following a day-long search at his Race Course Road residence in Bengaluru, ED took Manjunath for interrogation in the evening. Satish Jarkiholi, a key member of the Belagavi family, is a minister in Congress govt.

The agency sent out teams from its Bengaluru and Goa zones to conduct searches at 6-7 locations in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Ainapur (Belagavi district), Mysuru and Arsikere of Hassan district.

The probe focuses on allegations of disproportionate assets and investments in benami properties. TNN

▶Deputy excise chief, P 2

MEA: Passport a travel docu, not citizenship proof

Times News Network

New Delhi: A passport is primarily a travel document and should not be treated as proof of citizenship, a senior external affairs ministry official said Wednesday at an event to highlight the expansion of passport services across the country on 14th Passport Seva Divas.

The passport attests the nationality of Indians when they are abroad but it isn't a document of citizenship, officials clarified in response to a query. This set off a raging discussion on X, with users asking what then counted as a conclusive proof of citizenship in India if documents such as passports, Aadhaar cards and voter IDs don't make the cut?

While MEA's clarification reiterates a legal position underlined in the past by court orders, it assumes importance in light of debates around citizenship during SIR of electoral rolls.

▶No clarity: Inside jacket

Gruhalakshmi scam row: BJP seeks probe as audit flags ₹108 crore anomalies

Times News Network

Bengaluru: BJP Wednesday sought independent probe into alleged Gruhalakshmi scam after Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged anomalies involving more than Rs 108 crore in payments linked to shared or missing bank account details under the flagship welfare scheme.

BJP's R Ashoka alleged audit findings pointed to serious irregularities in beneficiary verification and fund disbursal. He demanded a thorough probe into the transactions.

The analysis found that 19,020 beneficiaries were linked to common bank account numbers. As per the audit, 3 lakh payments amounting to Rs 60 crore were made to such beneficiaries across different months. Of these, 8,995 payments worth Rs 1.8 crore were made during the same months to beneficiaries sharing identical bank account numbers.

The audit flagged 23,262 payments totalling Rs 46.5 crore that were processed despite absence of bank account details in records. It sought an explanation from women and child development department on how payments could be made without capturing bank account information.

Also, CAG found that more than 10 lakh beneficiary records showed multiple changes in bank account details and called for closer scrutiny of those transactions.

▶Common bank a/cs, P 2

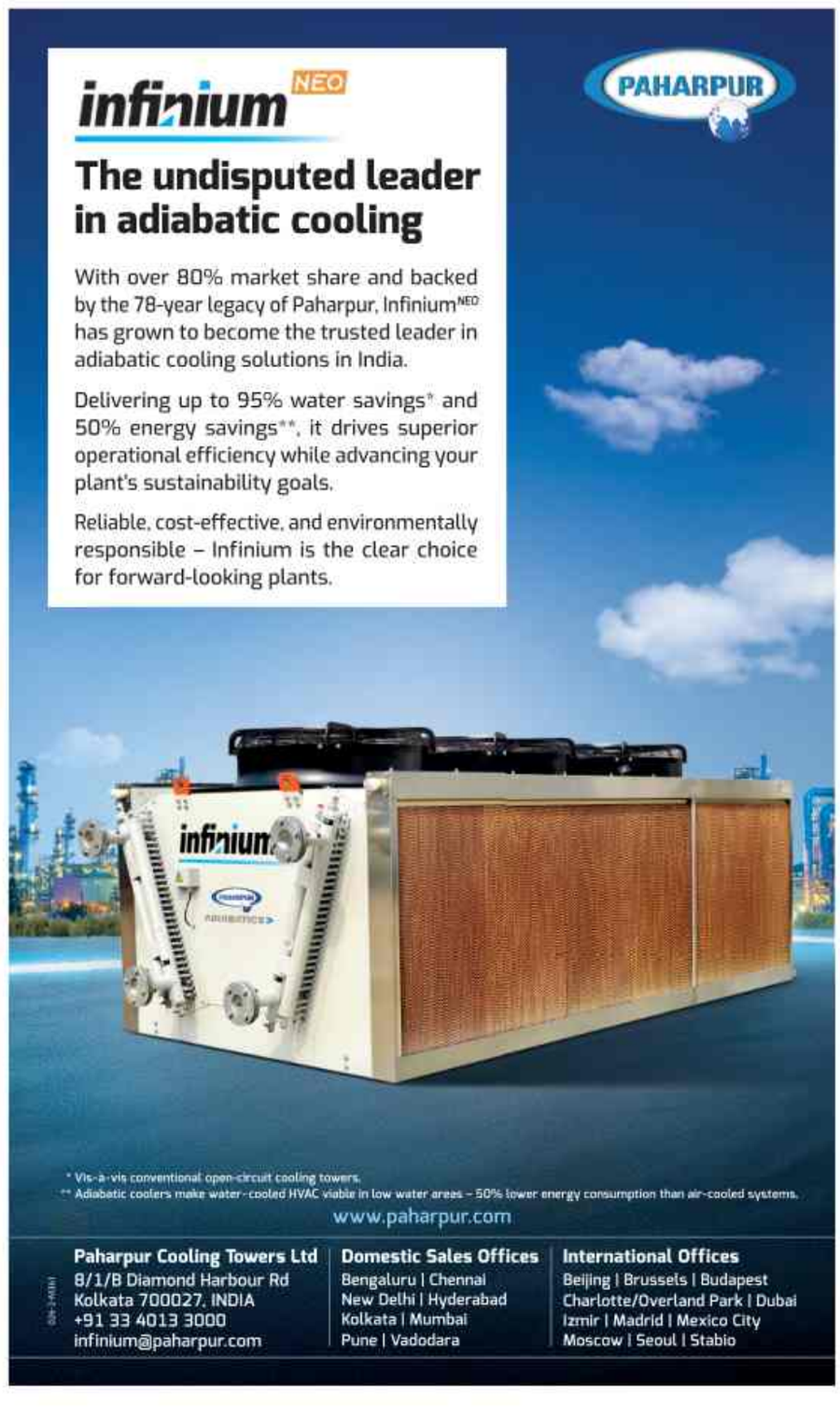
> Congress guarantees are an organised loot and legalised plunder of Karnataka. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, come down to Karnataka and look at your so-called guarantee model
>
> **R Ashoka** | LEADER OF OPPOSITION, K'TAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NEET paper leak shouldn't have happened: Min

New Delhi: Taking responsibility for NEET-UG paper leak, which he said "should not have happened", Union education minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** accused Congress MP Rahul Gandhi of exploiting students' anxiety for political gain and promised a "radical" overhaul of NTA, including moving NEET to computer-based testing next year, **reports Manash Gohain.**

In an interview to **TOI**, Pradhan said criticism was legitimate in a democracy, but "intent and timing matter". He alleged Rahul "jumped in" on Nagpur candidate's complaint that he was allotted a centre in Abu Dhabi, and blamed a Congress rally in Bengaluru for disrupting candidates' movement to centres. "Rahul Gandhi must apologise," he said.

TOI INTERVIEW: P 6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HC lets teen rape survivor end 30-week pregnancy

Vasantha.Kumar @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court (HC) has allowed a minor girl from Chitradurga — survivor of sexual assault and victim in a Pocso case — to terminate her nearly 30-week pregnancy after taking all necessary precautionary measures.

Though an FIR was filed in the sexual assault case, the station house officer allegedly did not inform the district child protection unit, the child welfare committee, women and child development department or other authorities about the 15-year-old girl, as required.

Allowing the petition filed by her parents, Justice Suraj Govindaraj observed that the pregnancy is alleged to be the consequence of repeated sexual assault and the minor has expressed wish against continuing with the pregnancy.

▶HC: 2nd wife to also get relief under MV Act, P 3

Considering the need to protect and facilitate "her rights to bodily autonomy, dignity, privacy and reproductive choice", the court said it accepted merits in the petition.

The court also directed the state to conduct an audit to find out whether minor victims are getting the support as required.

▶Audit minors' rehab, P 3

Bengaluru home to 7 of India's youngest high-value companies

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Bengaluru: India's IT capital has emerged as the biggest home for India's youngest high-value companies in the 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500, underscoring Bengaluru's dominance in spawning new-age firms.

Seven of the youngest companies in the ranking are headquartered in Bengaluru: Sarvam AI, Zepto, Glance, Cred, Zetwerk, Navi and KreditBee. The firms span artificial intelligence, quick commerce, consumer internet, fintech and manufacturing technology.

The report said 19 companies in the ranking are less than a decade old.

Sarvam AI and Neysa, both founded in 2023, are the youngest companies on the list. Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI, valued at Rs 14,220 crore, recently raised $234 million in a funding round led by HCLTech and Bessemer Venture Partners, taking its valuation to $1.5 billion and making it one of India's newest AI unicorns.

Founded in 2021, Zepto is the most valuable among the youngest companies, with a valuation of Rs 66,360 crore.

Bengaluru's dominance is particularly notable because the youngest-company cohort is otherwise spread across multiple cities. Mumbai is home to Neysa, Dhan, IDFC First Bank and CoinDCX; Gurugram houses BharatPe and Pristyn Care; Hyderabad has Skyroot Aerospace; while Chennai has Yubi and Pune has OneCard.

▶B'luru new age cos, P 11

5 CITIES HOUSE TOP COS

Rank		No. of firms
1	Mumbai	141
2	Bengaluru	57
3	Gurugram	42
4	Hyderabad	39
5	Chennai	36

Source: Hurun India 500

Bangalore Times

From the jungle to the Bombay Times Lounge

Akshay Kumar and Disha Patani talk about the laughter and reminisce a forest and thriller BT Lounge

Buzzstop

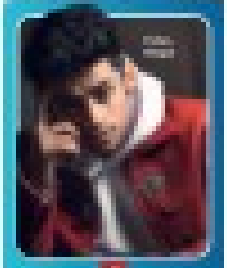
KAMAL BACKS RAJINIKANTH'S NEW MOVIE TITLED DHARMAN

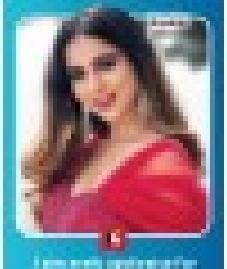
'I survived on just ₹6,000 a month'

Gilli Nata opens up about his journey from village fare to the big screen

'Didn't know renting peacock feathers was prohibited'

Kiara Advani-Siddharth and Kartik Aaryan's Sunshine Boy explores simple, even peacock feather-related controversy





Rounds on Karnataka! Lower prices spark 59% surge in beer sales

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GRIN AND BEER IT
LATEST PRICE REVISION OF BEER
650ml, with 5% ABV
Prices fall ₹160-185 to ₹135-150
7% ABV
Prices climb ₹165-190 to ₹170-205
8% ABV
Prices revised ₹225-250 to ₹245-260
AT PRESENT, LOWEST PRICE OF BEER IS ₹45

Between May 11 and June 9, beer sales jumped 59% year on year, rising from 32.4 lakh cartons in 2025 to 51.6 lakh in 2026. For the same time period, Indian-Made Liquor (IML) sales grew 2.4% in Karnataka

Bengaluru: Six weeks after Karnataka govt launched alcohol-by-volume-based (ABV) taxation system, beer sales have surged nearly 60%, boosting govt revenue by 16%. A 330ml bottle of beer is now available for Rs 45, down from the earlier price band of Rs 60-125.

Fresh data from the excise department shows that while beer consumption has surged, hard liquor sales have remained near flat.

The revised structure, unveiled on May 11, taxes beverages based on alcohol content. In effect, drinks with higher alcohol concentration attract higher taxes.

Between May 11 and June 9, beer sales jumped 59% year on year, rising from 32.4 lakh cartons in 2025 to 51.6 lakh in 2026. For the same time period, Indian-Made Liquor (IML) sales grew 2.4%.

Traders have reported an almost 20% rise in sales, fuelled mostly by the low-alcohol segment. "The challenge now is shortage of stock. Once stocks are replenished, we expect sales to increase further," G Shivakumar of SLNS Wines group said.

Adithya K, who owns four stores in Shivamogga, said: "Overall sales have grown by 15% in our stores. Products with less than 5% alcohol content have become popular, among younger consumers in particular."

Sampath Kumar, vice-president of Karnataka Wine Merchants' Association, said: "The response from customers has been positive. While there is a slight shortage because manufacturers are still adjusting production to the new demand, the market is expected to stabilise soon."

Expectedly, excise revenue rose from Rs 3,023 crore during the May 11-June 9 period in 2025 to Rs 3,510 crore in the same period this year.

"The response in the beer segment has been good, combined with season and low-price ranges. Even though the IML response is lower than that of beer, it has still shown good numbers," a senior official from the excise department said.

12.7% quota for SC/ST traders in liquor licences; association objects

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka govt has rolled out 12.75% reservation for SC & ST traders in e-auction of retail liquor shop and bar licences, effective from the coming excise calendar year.

The reservation applies only to allocation. There is no relaxation in eligibility criteria such as application fee, licence fee or auction bid amount.

As per a June 17 notification, an amendment to excise rules introduces category-wise reservation in the allotment of CL-2A licences (or, over-the-counter retail liquor shops) and CL-9A licences (for bars and restaurants). Under the proposal,

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

5.25% of licences each are reserved for SC-A and SC-B applicants, 4.5% for SC-C and 3% for ST applicants.

Excise officials said the proposal is aimed at extending reservation principles to self-employment opportunities for marginalised communities, similar to the model followed in education and govt jobs. Several states, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, have adopted similar approaches depending on local requirements, an official added. A similar attempt in Karnataka many years ago had met with a legal challenge.

Calling the govt's decision a negative move, Karunakar Hegde, vice president, Karnataka Wine Merchants' Association, said: "Reservation in areas like education is a different matter. Business is a fundamental right. Extending reservation to liquor licence auctions could have a negative impact on the sector. We've filed our objections."

IPS officer gets dual role in reshuffle

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a significant administrative reshuffle Wednesday, IPS officer MN Anucheth has been entrusted with two postings.

Anucheth, who was deputy inspector general of police (DIGP-recruitment), has been posted as DIGP and commissioner, department of information and public relations (DIPR), replacing Hemanth M Nimbalkar.

In addition, govt entrusted Anucheth with the concurrent charge of commissioner, youth empowerment and sports department, as IAS officer Kumar THM has been transferred.

Nimbalkar is awaiting a new posting.

Peak-hr disruption exposes fault lines in communication, last-mile problem

Revives Need For Emergency Transport Plan

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TOI: screengrabs

STRANDED: Videos circulating online show many commuters opting for trucks to reach their destination after Namma Metro service was disrupted, while others booked cabs or autos during peak hours

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH NAMMA METRO TRAIN?

A fault in the third-rail system was detected on a curved section inside the tunnel near Cubbon Park station. The third rail had deviated from its prescribed alignment and sagged, resulting in damage to the current collector device (CCD) of a train.

BMRCL chief PRO BL Yeshwanth Chavan said after a power block was imposed, maintenance personnel accessed the affected location and found the third rail had shifted from its position. "It was decided to replace the third rail along the stretch. The third rail is mounted on support brackets, and preliminary findings indicate that issues related to the bracket assembly or fittings may have contributed to the displacement."

"Our team is investigating why the third rail moved out of position. Several trains had passed through the section earlier, but when this train approached, the collector equipment was damaged. We are examining whether the cause was related to the rolling stock, trackside equipment or any other factor," Chavan said.

Bengaluru: The disruption of Namma Metro services Tuesday evening left thousands of commuters stranded and scrambling for transport home, with one of the most striking visuals being tech professionals squeezing into old, dust-covered trucks after failing to find other options. The incident has once again raised concerns over the city's preparedness for Metro emergencies.

As images and videos of the ordeal circulated widely on social media Wednesday, commuters and netizens questioned why passengers were left to manage on their own instead of being provided with immediate alternative transport such as buses, taxis or autorickshaws, and why timely communication on service disruptions was lacking.

Aditya M, a passenger, said Metro operations are prone to technical issues, but stressed that emergency handling is crucial. "Passengers being stranded for hours without proper information is distressing. Not finding buses after exiting a Metro station only adds to the stress," he said.

The disruption began around 6.30pm Tuesday when Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) suspended services on the underground stretch of the Purple Line between Cubbon Park and Magadi Road after a train developed a technical snag. Subsequent inspections identified a fault in the third-rail system.

Passengers were deboarded at MG Road and Magadi Road stations, leaving many stranded and struggling to find onward transport. Several commuters who had left their offices around 5.30pm said they were unable to reach home until nearly 11pm.

Supriya Rao, another passenger, said the lack of coordination worsened the situation. "Passengers made attempts to find autos or bike taxis from MG Road using multiple apps. Auto drivers were demanding exorbitant fares and cabs were not available. Had BMRCL planned better and coordinated with BMTC and got buses deployed, it could have helped passengers," she said.

Commuters also complained of inadequate communication regarding the disruption and demanded that authorities establish a robust contingency plan, including last-mile connectivity support and real-time passenger updates whenever Metro services are affected.

BMRCL chief public relations officer BL Yeshwanth Chavan said passenger information regarding the suspension was communicated at stations and inside Metro coaches. Addressing the congestion at MG Road station, Chavan said the station had to be closed to facilitate repair work and that power supply to the affected section had to be shut down.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) officials said they were informed by BMRCL only around 7pm about the suspension of services between Cubbon Park and Magadi Road and the need for additional bus services between MG Road and Majestic. "We deployed 25 buses from MG Road and Indiranagar to clear the rush. Our staff reached the locations by around 7.30pm and made the necessary arrangements. Apart from operating additional services, buses from other routes were also diverted to manage the crowd," a BMTC official maintained. However, the official acknowledged a key gap in coordination.

"We have a coordination mechanism in place whenever Metro services are suspended. However, we have no clear information on which stations are witnessing the heaviest rush or the exact number of stranded passengers. If BMRCL shares such details in real time, it will help us deploy services based on actual demand," the official further said.

While the additional BMTC buses reportedly helped around 2,000 passengers reach Majestic and other destinations, thousands of others endured hours of uncertainty before alternative transport became available.

SLEEPLESS IN BENGALURU
Long travel, stress triggering migraine

Neurologists say Bengaluru's fast-paced urban lifestyle is leading to migraine attacks in people who are already predisposed to the condition

Statistics show

- Migraine affects nearly 12-15% of adults globally
- In Karnataka, 14-25% of adults estimated to suffer from the condition
- It usually begins between 15 & 20 yrs of age; most common among people aged 20-50 years
- Women are 2-3 times more likely to develop migraine due to hormonal fluctuations during menstruation, pregnancy and menopause
- People with genetic susceptibility are more vulnerable

Common symptoms

- Recurrent headache episodes lasting 4 hours to 3 days
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to sound

What triggers it

Lifestyle
- Chronic stress
- Tight deadlines
- Long commutes
- Working across time zones
- Excessive screen time
- Dehydration
- Irregular meal timings & hunger
- Lack of relaxation and recovery

Sleep-related
- Inadequate sleep
- Oversleeping
- Night shifts and international work hours

Less recognised ones
- Strong perfumes
- Incense sticks
- Vehicular exhaust

Food habits
- Chocolates
- Aged cheese
- Foods containing monosodium glutamate
- Processed meats
- Artificial sweeteners
- Alcohol
- Excessive caffeine
- Caffeine withdrawal

Environmental factors
- Traffic congestion
- Air pollution
- Bright sunlight
- Sudden weather changes
- Bright lights
- Loud sounds

Prevent & Manage

- Maintain regular sleep schedule
- Eat meals on time
- Stay hydrated
- Exercise moderately
- Limit screen exposure
- Practise meditation and relaxation techniques
- Maintain headache diary to identify personal triggers
- Seek medical advice; preventive medication may help those with frequent attacks

Text by **Jahnavi**

EXPERTS SPEAK

"People today are constantly chasing deadlines, spending hours commuting, working across time zones and getting very little time to relax. This combination of chronic stress, poor sleep and lack of recovery is what is causing migraine attacks

Dr Satishchandra P | NEUROLOGIST AT APOLLO SPECIALITY HOSPITALS, JAYANAGAR

"Migraine is influenced by a combination of genetic susceptibility and environmental triggers. A trigger alone does not cause migraine but precipitates an attack in someone who is already susceptible

Dr Darshana Reddy | SENIOR CONSULTANT AND MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, ALTIUS HOSPITAL

"Studies show prolonged screen time can trigger migraines. Many patients tell us they wake up with a headache after spending even an hour on their phones late at night. The earlier a migraine is treated, the better is the response

Dr Santosh N S | CONSULTANT NEUROLOGIST, MANIPAL HOSPITAL, WHITEFIELD

Ashoka: 19k beneficiaries linked to common bank account nos.

▶ Continued from page 1

The audit noted that key information sought for verification, including details of ineligible beneficiaries, complaints received under the scheme and records relating to deleted beneficiaries, had not been furnished despite repeated requests. It also observed that no action had been initiated on issues earlier identified through data analytics.

During a meeting chaired by the department secretary on Jan 1, 2026, the audit findings were handed over to officials, who agreed to conduct field verification and submit a compliance report by Jan 31. However, CAG said the cases hadn't been forwarded to district authorities for verification.

"The inaction not only reflects lack of responsiveness to audit observations but also delays corrective measures in respect of potentially irregular transactions detected through data analysis," the audit noted.

Ashoka accused Congress govt of allowing large-scale irregularities in the scheme. "The truth is officially out. Your flagship guarantee scheme isn't empowering poor women; it has become a systematic mechanism for institutionalised corruption. This isn't welfare; it is organised loot and legalised plunder of honest taxpayers' hard-earned money to fund Congress party's high command," he said in a post on X.

Alleging a "massive financial anomaly", Ashoka said 19,020 beneficiaries were linked to common bank account numbers through which Rs 60.7 crore was disbursed in more than 3 lakh transactions.

Apply for refund of student bus passes now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Students who paid for bus passes for 2026-27 academic year can now apply for refunds through Seva Sindhu portal following govt's decision to provide free passes to students travelling on services operated by the state's four transport corporations.

According to KSRTC, students who obtained passes after paying fees through the portal May 29 onwards are eligible for refunds. Applicants must complete Aadhaar-based e-KYC and submit their or their parents' bank account details. The refund amount will be credited through NEFT/RTGS within seven days of application.

Power shutdown today till 4pm

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: There will be disruption in power supply Thursday, 10am to 4pm, due to maintenance work being carried out in Subramanyapura and Isro Layout station. Affected areas: Gubbalala, parts of Uttarahalli, Adarsha Apartments I & II, Mantri Tranquil Apartments, Maruthi Layout, Bharath Layout, Kumaraswamy Layout, Vittal Nagar, Maruthi Nagar, Ittamadu, AGS Layout, TG Layout, Bhuvneshwarinagar, Isro Layout, Ilyas Nagar, Yelachenahalli, Vivekananda Colony, Pragathipura, Sarbandapalya, Kashi Nagar, Vikram Nagar, Nanjappa Layout, Teachers' Colony.

Min: No hawkers on major roads, vehicles on footpaths to be towed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File photo

SAFE FOOTPATH DRIVE FROM JULY 1

Bengaluru: Citing Supreme Court's observation that walking on footpaths is a fundamental right of citizens, Bengaluru development minister Krishna Byre Gowda Wednesday announced a citywide "Safe footpath drive" from July 1 to remove encroachments and improve pedestrian safety.

Speaking after a review meeting on footpath encroachments and repairs, the minister said shop owners have been given time till July 1 to voluntarily remove goods, signboards and other materials placed on footpaths. Thereafter, civic authorities will clear encroachments and impose penalties on violators.

The drive will focus on nearly 2,000km of arterial and sub-arterial roads within Bengaluru's 13,000-km road network.

From July 1, street vending through pushcarts will not be allowed on footpaths and major roads in these priority corridors. Vehicles parked on footpaths will face towing action.

Byre Gowda said footpaths belong to the city's residents and should remain accessible to all. He pointed out that Bengaluru records around 1,000 road accident deaths every year, with nearly 30% of the victims being pedestrians, underscoring the need for safer walkways.

The govt has earmarked Rs 70 crore to repair deficiencies on nearly 2,000km of footpaths across the city's five municipal corporations. Works will include replacing damaged slabs and kerb stones and correcting uneven surfaces.

Kombucha or beer? Woman alleges abuse by cab driver

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

AI

Bengaluru: A routine cab ride home turned into a frightening ordeal for a 30-year-old woman after the driver allegedly mistook her kombucha (fermented beverage) for beer and got into an argument with her, leading to her dramatic escape from the moving vehicle.

The woman, a Bengaluru resident and a native of Chennai, filed a police complaint. She stated, she went to a restaurant in Koramangala 5th Block on June 21. After dinner, she booked a cab to go home at 9.30pm. The journey was uneventful until the cab reached close to Indian Christian Cemetery on Hosur Road. She opened a bottle of kombucha inside the cab.

The driver, Parameshwar, 60, allegedly assumed she was having beer and confronted her. What started as a misunderstanding escalated into a heated argument, she claimed. As tensions rose, the woman asked the driver to stop the vehicle and end the trip.

But the driver continued driving despite her requests. Fearing for her safety, the woman claimed she opened the car door and tried to jump out of the moving vehicle. But the driver grabbed her hand and tried to pull her back into the vehicle. The woman managed to free herself and ran away, while the driver allegedly drove off.

Ashok Nagar police have registered a case. A senior officer said the driver insisted the passenger was consuming beer. He has been served a notice and further investigation is in progress.

Manjunath's excise stint in Mysuru under ED scanner

▶ Continued from page 1

Manjunath, son of former Ballari MP Y Devendrappa, had a long tenure in Belagavi region. He was first posted there in 2017 as joint commissioner of excise and was subsequently promoted as additional excise commissioner (enforcement and crime) at the Belagavi headquarters, where he has served for nine years.

In Mysuru, ED teams descended on the residences and business premises of individuals believed to be Manjunath's associates.

Manjunath, who studied in Mysuru, worked in the excise department and served as deputy commissioner of excise for three years. ED sources indicated the raids were based on intelligence on wealth allegedly parked with these old associates.

Manjunath had been arrested in a sting operation more than a decade ago. "In 2012, when I was serving as Janata Bazaar chairman, Manjunath demanded a bribe from us to renew a liquor licence," alleged S Chandrashekar, state president of Karnataka State Liquor Merchants' Development Cooperative Society. "We filed a formal complaint, and the Lokayukta police caught and arrested him red-handed," he said.

HC refuses custody of 9 dogs to 'abusive' owner

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Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that videos and photographs placed before the court appeared to show the owner repeatedly beating the dogs and treating them "like chattels that he can deal with as and how he wants". He questioned how the lower court could have ordered the animals' return despite such material on record

Bengaluru: The high court has quashed a magistrate court order directing the return of nine rescued dogs — six Golden Retrievers and three Shih Tzus — to their original owner, KE Ramesh, who faces allegations of animal cruelty, repeated beatings and sexual abuse of the animals.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order Wednesday while allowing a petition filed by PETA, which had challenged the magistrate court's April 25, 2026 order in favour of the owner. Peenya police had registered a case against Ramesh in March this year. "A perusal of the magistrate's order shocks the conscience of the court," he observed. He noted that videos and photographs placed before the court appeared to show the owner repeatedly beating the dogs and treating them "like chattels that he can deal with as and how he wants." The judge questioned how the lower court could have ordered the animals' return despite such material on record.

The court noted that the investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of the dogs is still under way. "In such circumstances, the order directing the return of the dogs is, to say the least, preposterous," the judge said, adding that the magistrate's order "cannot sustain even for a minute" and deserved to be set aside.

Animals entitled to dignity & protection: Judge

Allowing PETA's petition, Justice Nagaprasanna underscored the legal and moral duty to protect animals from cruelty. Observing that animals are sentient beings capable of suffering and pain, he said the law no longer views them as mere property existing solely for human use, but as living beings entitled to dignity, compassion and protection. "The measure of a civilised society is reflected not only in how it treats fellow humans, but also in how it extends mercy and justice to voiceless creatures," he noted. He added that cruelty to animals is not merely an injury to a sentient being but "a blemish upon the collective human conscience."

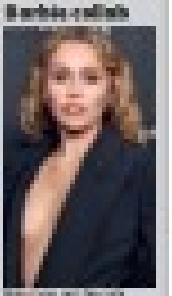
Emphasising that protecting animal life is not an act of charity, the judge said it is an affirmation of constitutional morality and a recognition that "the arc of justice must extend even to those who cannot knock at the doors of this court by themselves."

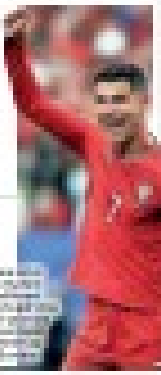
UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Batman: Knightfall trilogy brings iconic Bane vs Batman

Trisha's birthday wish for 'dirty crotches' halted overseas

Miley Cyrus sparks buzz over the removed Barbie collab





Ronaldo rewrites World Cup history with sixth tournament goal

Cleaning up? That's someone else's job

POV

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This mani has 9 lives

From nails to eyebrows making impossible arts are rampant

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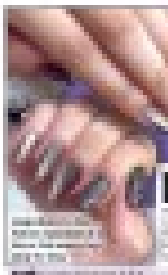
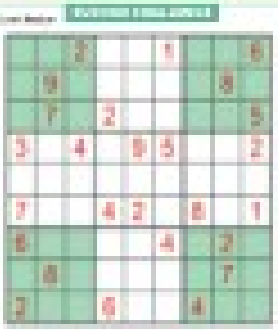
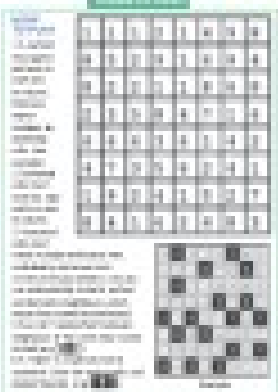


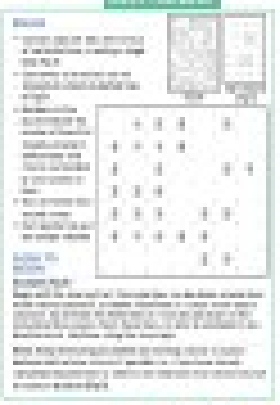
Why everyone is suddenly obsessed

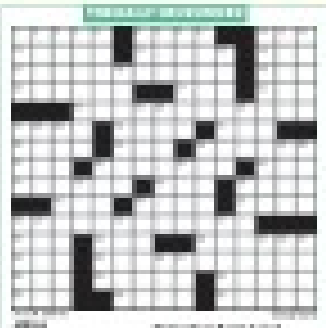
Here's how to recreate it

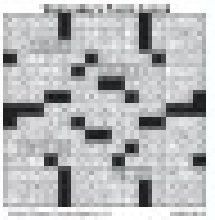
LEISURE

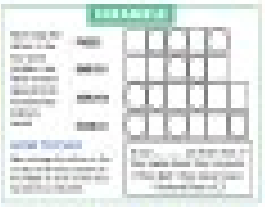


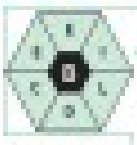


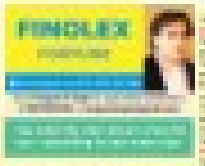


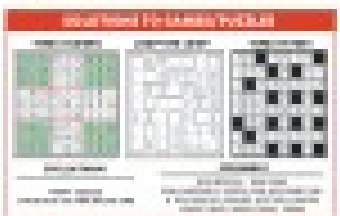












PG owner's final words: I'll return after getting stitches

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Bengaluru: Before he succumbed to injuries sustained in a brutal assault by two youths over the use of a water tap, the paying guest (PG) owner told his son that he would return after getting stitches for his head injuries and they would file a complaint with CCTV footage.

Matle Madhavan, a resident of 1st A Cross, OMBR Layout, on Kasturinagar Main Road in east Bengaluru, succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at a private hospital within 90 minutes of being attacked with a cricket bat by two students – Rakesh (21) of Cox Town and Don Brite Son (20) from Jeevanahalli – over washing their legs with tap water inside Lakshmi Narasimha Gents PG Monday.

The students appeared again in front of the PG two and a half hours after their first confrontation with the owner's family. During their second visit, the duo threatened to kill the owner, prompting him to bring out a cricket bat to drive them away.

Speaking to **TOI**, his son, Mahesh, a class 10 student, said, "We never expected he would succumb to his injuries. Our family believes the assailants were under the influence of alcohol and ganja. The way they behaved and attacked my father so aggressively clearly indicated that. They should not be allowed to walk scot-free," Mahesh said.

Rakesh

Don Brite Son

Matle Madhavan

SPOT OF CRIME: The PG accommodation in east Bengaluru where its owner was murdered

> We rushed my severely injured father to a nearby private hospital. On the way, he told us, 'The boys came back only with the intention of killing one of us. I will return after getting stitches for my head injuries. Keep CCTV footage of the attack ready. We will lodge a complaint the next morning and ensure they are punished
>
> **Mahesh** | SON OF FATAL ASSAULT VICTIM MATLE MADHAVAN

Victim's wife lodges detailed complaint

Madhavan's wife, Sunita, 35, in her complaint to Ramamurthynagar police, stated that the two accused first entered the PG premises and started washing their legs in the parking area around 4pm. Sunita was in the house on the ground floor along with her two sons and her elder sister's son, Shashi, while Madhavan was out on some work.

When Shashi questioned them why they had entered the property without permission and were using the tap, the two accused said they were not doing anything wrong. Sunita came out on hearing the argument and confronted them. The duo left only after shouting at her.

The family believed the matter ended there. However, the youths returned to the PG around 6.30pm and stood outside the building. The family members informed Madhavan, who had returned home. Madhavan confronted the duo. Sunita said the confrontation quickly escalated, with the two accused issuing death threats. "We will leave the place only after killing you," Sunita quoted the duo as saying.

Madhavan rushed into the house, picked up Mahesh's cricket bat, and came out to drive them away. But the situation turned deadly when the duo overpowered him, snatched the bat, and began assaulting him on the road. When Madhavan collapsed, the accused smashed his head with the bat.

Despite desperate attempts by family members to intervene, the attackers continued, raining blows on Madhavan's head and body. Shashi almost fell at their feet and stopped them from carrying out further attacks. Before being taken for treatment, a profusely bleeding Madhavan told his wife and son that the attackers had come with the intention of killing him, that they might repeat the attempt in the future as well, and told them not to be afraid and to pursue justice through legal means, Sunita said.

A senior officer said the duo didn't leave the street after they washed their legs during the first confrontation with the family. The medical reports confirmed they had not consumed ganja. The duo are remanded in judicial custody.

Last delivery: Courier agent gives 5 second chance at life

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

ORGAN DONATION

Bengaluru: A 40-year-old delivery rider from Bengaluru has given a new lease of life to at least five people through organ donation after his death following a road accident.

It began as just another workday for **Ananth**. He set out to earn a living for his family, navigating the city's busy roads to complete deliveries. But a tragic road accident cut his day — and his life — short.

He was initially taken to a nearby hospital before being shifted to Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur Road, for advanced care.

Despite doctors' efforts, he was declared brain dead. In the midst of their grief, his family consented to organ donation.

Through the deceased-donor programme, Ananth's heart, liver, kidneys, and corneas were retrieved and allocated to patients in need. The donations helped restore sight to some recipients and offered life-saving treatment to others battling organ failure. One of the beneficiaries was a 52-year-old female patient with end-stage kidney disease. As the recipient had already completed the required pre-transplant evaluation, doctors were able to proceed with the transplant immediately after a match was identified. The kidney reportedly began functioning soon after surgery, and the patient has been recovering steadily.

Woman says she alone killed kin, but cops disagree

▶ Continued from Pg 1

Sharing details of Monday night's triple murder, Shwetha admitted to police she was the one who attacked her parents and sister with a knife while Kenneth watched helplessly. However, refuting her version of the story, investigating officers said "multiple stab injuries on the victims indicate that more than one person was involved in the attack".

Following the stabbing spree, as a profusely bleeding Somasundar ran out of the ground-floor flat to the staircase, Kenneth and Shweta locked the main door from inside, rushed to the balcony and jumped out to the adjacent building, police said. CCTV footage captured the duo calmly walking out.

"They flagged down an autorickshaw and reached a paying guest accommodation near Vibhutipur in HAL where Kenneth used to stay earlier. His sports-bike was parked there. They roamed around HAL and Marathahalli for a while on that bike before reaching Sarjapur, where they took a coffee break," a senior police officer said.

Once they reached Tiruvannamalai, about 220km from Bengaluru, by Tuesday afternoon, Kenneth rode off to an 'unknown destination' while Shwetha took a bus and reached Puducherry by night. There, she checked into the hotel from where she was eventually arrested," the police officer added.

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5 of family swept away in Cauvery

Five members of a family lost their lives after being swept away in Cauvery river while attempting to take photographs at the popular tourist spot of Muthathi, Malavalli taluk of Mandya district, Wednesday evening. The incident took place after the family from Channapatna in Bengaluru South district visited the Muttetharaya temple in Muthathi.

@MUTHATHI

According to preliminary reports, some of the family members entered the river to take photographs when they reportedly lost balance and were caught in the strong currents. In a desperate attempt to rescue one another, the others too were dragged into the water. The deceased were identified as Chaitra, 20, Shwetha, 38, Vijayamma, 50, Priyanka, 28, and Mahesh. The first to enter the water was Vijayamma.

Though the homeguard stationed near the river told them not to enter the water, they didn't listen to him, resulting in the tragedy, authorities said. Police and personnel from fire and emergency services department rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. All five bodies were recovered.

SP VJ Shobharani denied rumours of suicide. TNN

HC: 2nd wife, child too to get accident relief under MV Act

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Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has held that a second wife and a child born to her are also eligible to receive compensation in an accident case, pointing out that Motor Vehicles Act is a beneficial legislation. The expression — legal representative — is not confined to legal heirs, it added.

The case refers to the death of a 34-year-old flower grower in a road accident in 2019 in Davanagere district. His wife Asha and mother

Mahanthamma moved Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, seeking compensation. Geetha, the second wife, and her minor daughter joined in as respondents. On Nov 30, 2020, the tribunal awarded Rs 15.1 lakh compensation along with 9% interest.

On the second wife and the minor daughter, the tribunal observed it could not adjudicate on the matter since it is not a competent court.

Not happy with the quantum of compensation, Asha and Mahanthamma moved the high court. A division bench, comprising Justices Jayant Banerji and Tara Vitasta Ganju, said the second wife and her daughter are also eligible to receive compensation.

The HC referred to a Supreme Court ruling which said every person who represents the estate of the deceased and suffers on account of the death of a person in a motor vehicle accident should get compensation.

Audit rehab of minor victims, govt told

▶ Continued from page 1

In case, the court noted that even the district child welfare officer, who was aware of the incident, reportedly did not take steps to place the matter before the child welfare committee to assess the immediate needs of the minor, facilitate medical and psychological assistance, and advise the family regarding the legal remedies available to them.

"Had the authorities acted with the promptitude expected of them, the issue of medical termination of pregnancy could have been examined at a substantially earlier stage of gestation and the family would have been spared uncertainty, distress and hardships," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

The court said the conduct of officers, if established, would amount to failure to discharge institutional responsibilities for the protection of child victims of sexual offences.

The judge has directed the state govt to conduct an audit whether minor victims of sexual assault are provided immediate care, protection, counselling, rehabilitation and access to statutory entitlements.

In the audit, the report of which is required to be submitted to the high court, the authorities are required to examine whether mechanisms have been evolved in each district and the extent of compliance by the police department, child welfare committees, district child protection units and other stakeholder departments.

In Oct 2025, the court issued a technology-oriented SOP, including a digital portal, to assist survivors in cases registered under Pocso Act until another SOP is framed.

No valid ID, yet in charge: Court tells govt agency's ex-chief to repay ₹44L

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Investigation revealed that Shetty held two PAN cards and had over 30 criminal cases pending across courts, none of which he disclosed at the time of his appointment

Bengaluru: A city civil court recently directed the former chairman of Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd (KSHDCL) to repay Rs 44.1 lakh for misusing public funds.

The controversy dates back to Nov 2020, when govt appointed Beloor Raghavendra Shetty, a 42-year-old resident of Dollars Colony, as director and chairman of KSHDCL. Established in 1964, the corporation was tasked with preserving and promoting Karnataka's handicrafts heritage and supports more than 50,000 artisans directly and indirectly.

During his tenure, Shetty received a monthly remuneration package of Rs 1.5 lakh, which included salary, staff travel, house rent and courtesy allowances. The payments totalled Rs 27.4 lakh over the course of his appointment.

What state govt did not know and what Shetty had carefully concealed, was that his Director Identification Number (DIN) had been cancelled by central govt in 2016 for failing to file mandatory KYC compliance annually. Under Companies Act 2013, a person without a valid DIN cannot legally serve as a director of any company in India. Shetty was already a director of two private companies.

What followed was a nearly two-year tenure that cost the corporation dearly on multiple fronts, probe revealed. Shetty appointed his own secretary, assistant, helper and driver and had their salaries routed directly through the corporation's accounts. He claimed travel allowances for air trips to Mumbai, Secunderabad, Delhi, Kolhapur and Mangalore between Nov 2020 and Feb 2021, but did not file a single report to the board on any of these visits. Three of the trips were traced to temple towns — Tirupati and Kolhapur — with no official purpose.

His Dubai visit for a trade fair cost the corporation Rs 1.9 lakh. He also removed handicraft articles worth Rs 3.1 lakh from KSHDCL's MG Road showroom without payment, depriving the corporation of sale proceeds from goods meant for public sale, probe revealed.

₹10.8L for repairing vehicle

Then came the late-night accident. On Aug 30, 2021, a corporation-provided Toyota Innova was involved in a collision at Hiriyur town at 11.30pm while Shetty was travelling with a friend — with no official duty on record. The corporation spent Rs 10.8 lakh repairing the vehicle.

When state govt removed Shetty from his post in July 2022, the managing director began reviewing records and found his DIN missing from all statutory filings. A letter to registrar of companies confirmed the cancellation of Shetty's DIN.

Investigation revealed that Shetty held two PAN cards — an offence under Section 272B of Income Tax Act — and had more than 30 criminal cases pending across courts in Bengaluru and elsewhere, none of which he disclosed at the time of appointment. His passport, obtained using a letter from the corporation's own managing director, was subsequently impounded by the Regional Passport Office in Nov 2022.

To get its funds back, the corporation filed a recovery suit in April 2023, seeking Rs 44 lakh as the total amount paid out during Shetty's tenure, along with 18% interest. Shetty never appeared before the court, was declared ex parte, and left the plaintiff's evidence unchallenged.

The court observed that the corporation's funds came from the exchequer and were, therefore, public money. It held that Shetty had concealed the fact that he was disqualified from serving as director and had continued to receive payments from the corporation. The court described his actions as corrupt and ruled that the money he received did not legally belong to him and must be recovered.

The court, presided over by XLIII additional city civil and sessions judge Shivanand Maruti Jipare, on June 15, ordered Shetty to repay the full suit claim of Rs 44 lakh with interest at 6% per annum from the date of filing of the suit until realisation, with costs.

DRAG, DRAMA AND DAZZLING PERFORMANCES

Inside Bengaluru's thriving drag scene

'THE BENGALURU DRAG SCENE IS VERY DYNAMIC'

A long-overdue win as women's cricket puts mothers back at the heart of the game

ICC launches post-pregnancy return-to-play guidelines for cricketers

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BJP's hunt for cross-voters a futile exercise: Analysts

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File picture

IN FIRING LINE: Analysts say the incident reflects poorly on BJP state brass — Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, BY Vijayendra and R Ashoka

> Our party should have focused on preventing the problem rather than containing the damage. It should have convened a meeting a few days before the polls, instructed MLAs on vote allocation, and emphasised the party high command's message of discipline. None of that happened
> —BJP functionary

Bengaluru: While brass at JD(S), its ally, has chosen to put the incident behind them and move on, BJP's decision to form a three-member panel to identify legislators who cross-voted in last week's legislative council elections may be an exercise in futility, given the secret ballot system and the limited scope for punitive action. What's more, it also risks deepening internal divisions.

An estimated 12 opposition MLAs allegedly backed Vinay Karthik, Congress' fifth nominee, handing the governing party five of the seven seats and heaping much embarrassment on the combined BJP and JD(S) opposition.

Functionaries across party lines say conclusively identifying those who cross-voted is near impossible because unlike in Rajya Sabha elections, MLAs are not required to show their ballot papers to authorised party observers in legislative council polls.

A senior JD(S) MLA from Mysuru said suspicion alone cannot translate into proof. "They may know who cross-voted, but unless they find some kind of money trail, they will have no proof to substantiate their allegations," he said.

Jagadish Shettar, former CM and now MP, who also served as assembly speaker, acknowledged the challenge. "It is very difficult to identify the black sheep unless one gets circumstantial evidence," he said.

Another BJP functionary said only evidence such as bribery payments or documented meetings with governing party members before the election can strengthen a case against any legislator.

Limited options

Even if the party identifies likely suspects, its options remain limited. Since the anti-defection law generally applies to votes inside the House and not to elections such as legislative council polls, disqualification is not an option. At best, the party can initiate internal disciplinary proceedings.

Political analyst Sandeep Shastri said BJP's exercise of forming a team appeared more symbolic than practical. "It is only to show that some action is being taken," he said. "There bigger issue is the deep fissures within the state unit of the party."

Analyst Ravindra Reshme said the move risks diverting attention from organisational shortcomings that may have contributed to the embarrassment. "The three-member panel is a face-saving attempt by state BJP brass to divert attention from its own organisational inefficiency and lack of pre-election management," he said.

Political observers say the search for "betrayers" could deepen factional tensions within BJP without producing any conclusive results. With no legal route for disqualification and little chance of proving how individual MLAs voted, the exercise risks creating mistrust within the legislature party.

Nikhil seeks apology from minister Patil

Bengaluru: JD(S) youth wing president **Nikhil Kumaraswamy** demanded a public apology from industries minister MB Patil for claiming that the Kumaraswamy family owns 100 acres in the Bidadi township project area. Patil alleged that former CM HD Kumaraswamy's wife, Anitha Kumaraswamy, owned substantial acreage in Bidadi.

"If MB Patil proves that our family owns 100 acres in the area, I will bow to him. Otherwise, he must apologise in public. If he does not, we will file a defamation suit," Nikhil said.

Backing her son, Anitha, a former MLA, said she owned only 32 acres in Bidadi. "Dragging family members into political controversies and spreading false information for political gain does not befit anyone. If baseless allegations continue against me and my family, I will respond through legal means," she said in a post on X.

Facing a backlash, Patil said his remarks were based on discussions in political circles. "I have no personal animosity towards Anitha. If my statement has hurt her, I regret it," he said.

But Nikhil said regret wasn't enough and demanded a public apology. TNN

3 CMs to inaugurate new TB reservoir gates today

Chamaraj Savadi | TNN

TOI

Koppal: Nearly a year after crest gate No. 19 was washed away, authorities will inaugurate 33 newly installed gates at Tungabhadra dam in Munirabad, Koppal district Thursday.

The event is expected to draw chief ministers from three riparian states — DK Shivakumar (Karnataka), N Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh) and A Revanth Reddy (Telangana), besides Union jal shakti minister CR Patil.

The restoration marks a major safety exercise, but concerns over long-term water security, siltation and stalled infrastructure proposals continue to dominate discussions around the dam.

When the gate was washed away on Aug 10, 2024, it triggered a sudden release of water. Emergency stop-log arrangements were immediately installed, while inspections later revealed vulnerabilities in other gates. A decision was then made to replace all the gates.

The work was completed at an estimated cost of Rs 51 crore, with Karnataka contributing 64%. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana shared the rest, said ORK Reddy, secretary, TB Board.

However, the reservoir's shrinking storage remains a key concern. Built in 1949 with a capacity of 133tmcft at a full reservoir level of 1,633feet, it has steadily lost storage capacity due to silt accumulation. Storage fell to 105.8tmcft two years ago, and experts are now advising limiting storage to 80tmcft because of the stop-log system.

Focus is on the long-pending Navali balancing reservoir project in Kanakagiri taluk, which is meant to offset storage loss. Officials say the project has been discussed multiple times at govt level but remains at the proposal stage despite a Rs 13,040 crore DPR prepared four years ago. The project would need consent from all three riparian states.

Raghavendra Hitnal, Koppal MLA, said efforts are on to find a solution. "The three CMs will discuss the Navali project," he said.

WHAT HAPPENED

- **Aug 10, 2024** Crest gate No 19 was washed away
- The breach triggered a huge release of water
- Stop-log arrangements were immediately installed
- Govt decided to replace all gates after vulnerabilities were found

COST SHARING

₹51cr Estimated total restoration cost

Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana
64%	36%

STORAGE CONCERNS PERSIST

- Original capacity: **133tmcft**
- Storage fell to **105.8tmcft** two years ago
- Experts now advise limiting storage to **80tmcft**

Clean-up could improve finances, but poses risks

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda
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IANS

> Once govts begin tightening eligibility norms, beneficiaries inevitably worry about losing support. The govt may insist that only fake beneficiaries are being targeted. But beneficiaries often view welfare support as an entitlement. The moment verification begins, many people start wondering whether the next step could be restrictions, exclusions or even a gradual rollback
> **MN Patil** | POLITICAL ANALYST

GOD'S WORK: CM DK Shivakumar offers prayers during the launch of operations at 'Krishna', his home office

Bengaluru: When former chief minister Siddaramaiah led Congress' election campaign in 2023, he popularised the slogan, "Nanagu free, ninagu free, Mahadevappa gu free, Kaka Patil gu free" — free for everyone. The message was simple: Welfare without barriers.

GUARANTEE SCHEMES

Three years later, the govt finds itself confronting a reality that sits uneasily with that promise. Its decision to reverify beneficiaries under its flagship guarantee schemes is not merely an administrative exercise. It has evolved into a test of whether Congress can improve targeting and plug leaks without undermining public confidence in the welfare programmes that helped propel it to the helm.

Chief minister DK Shivakumar has insisted the purge is aimed only at identifying fake, duplicate and ineligible beneficiaries and ensuring benefits reach genuine recipients. The govt has cited cases involving deceased beneficiaries, incorrect records and suspected misuse to insist the guarantees are not being rolled back.

The review marks the first major attempt to scrutinise beneficiaries since the schemes were launched. Congress ministers have defended the move, arguing that the exercise was long overdue.

"For three years, the opposition accused us of wasting public money and allowing leaks," they said. "Now that we are cleaning up the system, the same opposition is objecting. Every fake beneficiary removed means more resources for roads, irrigation, schools, hospitals and other development works. Welfare cannot become a free-for-all. Karnataka taxpayers' money must go to genuine residents who are eligible for the schemes."

Many Congress MLAs also credited Shivakumar for taking what they describe as a "politically difficult" decision. "Many CMs would have baulked at the idea," they said. "Siddaramaiah never attempted such a large-scale verification."

Congress' argument is straightforward. Welfare programmes will continue only if they are seen as credible and financially sustainable. It believes removing ineligible beneficiaries will strengthen the schemes and blunt criticism that public funds are being misused.

But the opposition sees a contradiction between Congress' election promise and its current approach. BJP and JD(S) members argue that the party had presented the guarantees as broad based welfare measures and the verification drive risks creating doubts among beneficiaries. They contend that the move reflects fiscal pressures rather than administrative reform.

Managing perception

Political analysts say the real challenge lies in managing public perception.

"The guarantees have become the Congress' single biggest political asset in Karnataka," said MN Patil, political analyst. "Any confusion surrounding eligibility, documentation or verification could create anxiety among beneficiaries, especially women who form the core support base of schemes such as Gruha Lakshmi and Shakti."

Simpler rules soon for gramathana properties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a major relief for rural property owners, the govt will amend rules to secure e-Swathu records for properties within gramathana limits that do not have ownership documents, rural development and panchayat raj minister Eshwar Khandre said.

E-SWATHU

Khandre said Wednesday nearly 65 lakh properties in gramathana areas have been inherited over generations without formal title documents. As a one-time measure, the govt will simplify rules, invite public objections, and issue e-khatas within 100 days.

"Providing property rights to rural residents is one of the chief minister's priority programmes," Khandre said. "Genuine occupants will be granted records while govt land, including gomala and kharab land, will be protected." He said the deadline to file applications under Form 11B would be extended till Sept.

He said there are around 1.5 crore properties under 5,928 gram panchayats. Of these, e-Swathu records have been issued for 53.5 lakh properties. Around 10 lakh properties have received B-khatas, while nearly 90 lakh properties are yet to obtain either A or B-khatas.

VB-G RAM G FROM JULY 1

Minister Eshwar Khandre said the Centre's VB-G RAM G scheme will be implemented in the state from July 1. He said the funding pattern had been revised from the previous 90:10 to 60:40, substantially raising the state's share of expenditure. Khandre said he would raise the issue during a forthcoming meeting with the Union minster and seek funding of at least 80:20.

Govt to set up help centres

Bengaluru: The govt has directed all gram panchayats to set up special voter assistance centres to help residents with enrolment, corrections and transfers in electoral rolls during the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR).

The initiative aims to ensure that no eligible voter is struck off the rolls ahead of elections to zilla, taluk and gram panchayats, while also improving access to electoral services in rural areas.

VOTER LIST SIR

An order issued by the rural development and panchayat raj department stated that the decision was taken following directions issued during a meeting chaired by chief minister DK Shivakumar.

The help centres will operate from Bapuji Seva Kendras, with data entry operators handling daily operations and panchayat development officers overseeing their functioning. TNN

Zoo Authority says panel set up to frame SOP for staff

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Central Zoo Authority Wednesday informed Karnataka high court that a committee of experts has been constituted to formulate standard operating procedure (SOP) for ensuring safety of zoo staff and others.

As the authority's counsel submitted a copy of the office memorandum constituting the committee, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice KS Hemalekha disposed of a PIL filed by Cambridge-based conservationist Bhuvan and his mother B Pushpalatha of Mangaluru.

The petitioners cited 17 fatal incidents that have occurred since 2012, including the death of a trainee veterinarian at the tiger and lion safari in Shivamogga following an attack by a hippopotamus. During the hearing, the bench orally said, "You get into the tiger enclosure there. No common sense permits you to do that. You don't need a protocol not to enter a tiger enclosure. How do you restrain an animal?"

The bench pointed out that in one case a person goes into a king cobra enclosure and in another a person enters a tiger enclosure knowing that the animal is 14-years-old. Both these instances could have been avoided with application of common sense, the bench added.

According to the petitioners, zoo staff and veterinary professionals suffered injuries as a result of entering into animal enclosures without taking any safety measures.

The petitioners stated that when an RTI query was filed seeking whether any SOP or protocols were in place for ensuring the safety of zoo staff and other personnel, the response was that there was none.

Counsel for the petitioners stated the expert committee constituted by the authority may be directed to look into the 17 incidents mentioned in the petition.

UP youth held in D'gere over alleged Ram Mandir attack plot

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

PRIYANK KHARGE | MIN

There is no evidence so far linking the Davangere case with the Tumakuru terror module. However, police are probing all angles

Davangere/Bengaluru: A 20-year-old man accused of plotting an attack on the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya was arrested in Harihar in Davangere district, making him the third terror suspect to be held in the state in little over a fortnight.

Davangere district police Tuesday arrested Suhail, a native of Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, from Harihar, where he had reportedly been working at a factory for the past 15 days.

Suhail has been handed over to Tumakuru police for further investigation. Police sources said the arrest followed leads that emerged during interrogation of two suspected terrorists who were arrested on June 4. Jameer Khan, 22, was arrested in Davangere, while Alla Baksh, 24, was arrested in Tumakuru.

Home minister Priyank Kharge, however, ruled out any links between the arrest of the latest suspect and the duo held on June 4. Davangere SP HT Shekhar said: "Suhail had joined a factory in Harihar as a painter and was residing in a nearby village. It has come to light that he has connections with Pakistan-based terror outfits."

According to Shekhar, acting on a tip-off about a suspicious individual, a police team led by Davangere Rural DSP B S Basavaraj tracked the suspect down and arrested him. During questioning, investigators found that he allegedly had links with certain groups in Pakistan. "Preliminary findings suggest he was in contact with terrorists through social media. The case appears similar to the one reported in Tumakuru district earlier, but we will gather more evidence to establish the facts. We have also received information that a group of 10 people has entered Karnataka. This is being verified," the SP said.

Police officials said the accused allegedly admitted during questioning that he had discussed plans to attack the Ram Mandir. Investigators claimed his mobile phone contained photographs of him holding weapons, contacts linked to a Pakistani country code and audio clips in which he can allegedly be heard speaking about an attack on the temple.

"There are some audio clips in his mobile phone, in which he can be heard saying in Urdu-mixed-Hindi that he wants to blast the Ram Mandir," police officers added.

Brother, aides kill man & stage it as road accident

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A man, along with three associates, has been arrested by Tumakuru police for allegedly murdering his brother over suspicion that he had performed black magic. The accused initially attempted to pass off the death as an accident, but police unraveled the mystery within 18 hours of the crime.

The victim, H Ramesh, 35, a tender coconut vendor from Mandya, was found dead on the road with his mangled motorbike near Sira on the afternoon of June 20.

An autopsy revealed that Ramesh had multiple injuries on his body that could not have been caused by a road accident. A detailed examination of the motorcycle also ruled out the possibility of an accident, indicating that it had been deliberately struck with hard objects.

BLACK MAGIC SCARE

They took Ramesh to a desolate place claiming they have clues on a hidden treasure. They beat him up and, on falling, drove the car repeatedly on his body. Later, they strangled him to death, police said

Further investigation found that Ramesh's brother, Hanumantharaju alias Raju, who runs a tea shop near Nelamangala, allegedly conspired to murder him for two reasons. Police said the accused and his associates believed Ramesh practised black magic and would bring misfortune upon them. Additionally, Hanumantharaju had taken an insurance policy worth Rs 15 lakh in Ramesh's name about a decade ago, with himself as the nominee, and had been paying an annual premium of Rs 85,000. Police said had Ramesh died in an accident, Hanumantharaju would have been eligible to receive at least Rs 30 lakh in insurance payout.

Hanumantharaju roped in three others — Lakshmikanta alias Praveen, 31, Naveen Kumar, 28, and MD Jilan alias Rayyan, 21, all drivers — and promised them Rs 1 lakh each for helping in eliminating Ramesh.

As per the plan, they summoned Ramesh on June 20 saying they have some clues on a hidden treasure. Taking him to a desolate place, they beat him up and, on falling, drove the car on Ramesh's unconscious body. Later, they strangled him to death. All four have been arrested.

Inspector's aides held in dacoity case

Bengaluru: Madiwala police Wednesday arrested three more persons in the Rs 20-lakh dacoity case allegedly involving inspector Mahesh Kanakagiri. The arrested are the inspector's aides, Shafi and Haris, both from Madikeri, and Rashid from Kerala. Earlier, Kanakagiri and his aides, Kupendra Reddy and Vasanth Kumar, were taken into custody.

The gang had robbed Rs 20 lakh from Kerala businessman Junish Babu AK on the pretext of conducting a raid on a hotel on June 15. TNN.

Dog lover rewards villager ₹50k for finding his pet

Vinobha KT | TNN

Mangaluru: "The love we have for our pets is truly priceless," Ganesh Kera, a businessman from Polya in Puttur, said while handing over a cheque of Rs 50,000 to the saviour of his pet dog, Chinnu.

Four-year-old Chinnu was so adorable that everyone in Kera's house looked after her as a family member. "It was indeed a shock for us when we found Chinnu missing about 25 days ago. We searched everywhere in our village and neighbourhood. We also offered prayers to deities for Chinnu's safe return," Kera told **TOI**.

In fact, Kera, a dog lover, keeps 30 dogs of various breeds at his home. Among them, Chinnu, a local breed, had lost the use of its legs due to fits. After Chinnu went missing, Ganesh shared information on social media and put up banners with information about the dog in various parts of Puttur. He also announced a reward of Rs 50,000 to anyone who found the dog or provided clues.

Purandara, who is also from Polya area, found Chinnu and handed the pet to Kera. As promised, Kera gave the Rs 50,000 reward cheque to Purandara on Sunday.

BOND BEYOND MONEY

Kera said, "Chinnu has reached our home. I invited Purandara to my house and presented him with the cheque. The missing dog was wandering within a 2-km radius of my house. In fact, Purandara had spotted the dog three days after it went missing. Although he informed me immediately, the dog was not found that day. Later, Chinnu caught Purandara's eye again. He caught her right there and handed her over to me."

Ganesh Kera, a businessman from Polya in Puttur, with Purandara, saviour of his pet

Ganesh, who treats stray dogs found on the roadside, had found Chinnu in the same way. He had brought Chinnu home and raised her after she was injured in a road accident. "Four years ago, I found the puppy by the side of the road. I brought her home and provided the necessary treatment. Later, we called her Chinnu. After two years, Chinnu developed a seizure disorder, and we have been providing her treatment," he added.

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OBITUARY

SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE

Rebecca Francis
30-05-1954 to 23-06-2026

She lived fiercely, loved deeply, and showed us all what true strength and grit looks like. She was our anchor, and her bold spirit will live on in us forever.

In Mourning:
Tina & Binu, Mithu, Tresa & Bruce
Grandchildren: Rahul, Rheanna, Nikhil & Akira

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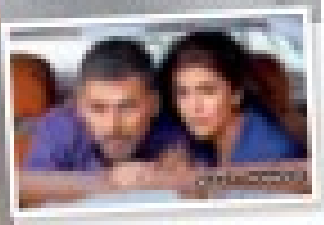
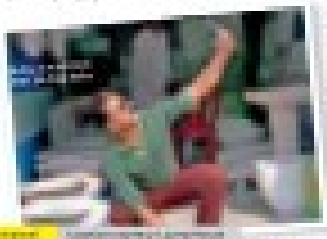
I am a wanderer, and it's fine to be that way: Disha

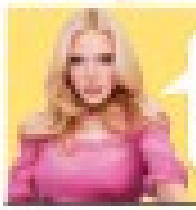
If you want to survive, you've to learn from the young breed: Akshay

DISHA PATANI AND AKSHAY KUMAR





Cancelling a concert is never an option for me: Sonu Nigam



VOICES

Olivia Rodrigo launches an all-women music festival

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

MIMI CHAKRABORTY GETS INTERIM STAY FROM HC ON FIR AGAINST HER IN EVENT DISPUTE WITH ORGANISER

SULE RULES OUT NCP SP SPLIT, SAYS ALL 8 MPs UNITED; ACCUSES BJP OF USING AGENCIES TO BREAK OPPN

HACK OF THE DAY — **HOW TO SAVE EMERGENCY INFO ON YOUR PHONE'S LOCK SCREEN**

WHAT IT SOLVES: In an emergency, helpers may not know who to call or key medical details

WHAT TO DO: Add emergency contacts and medical notes to your phone lock screen

STEPS:

1. Open Safety or Emergency settings in your phone
2. Add two emergency contacts
3. Enter blood group, allergies and other medical notes
4. Enable lock-screen access in case of emergencies
5. Test it without unlocking your phone

NOTE: Do not add sensitive details you would not want visible on a locked phone

SCAN FOR MORE HACKS

Source: Android and iOS safety features. Readers are advised to follow official help pages

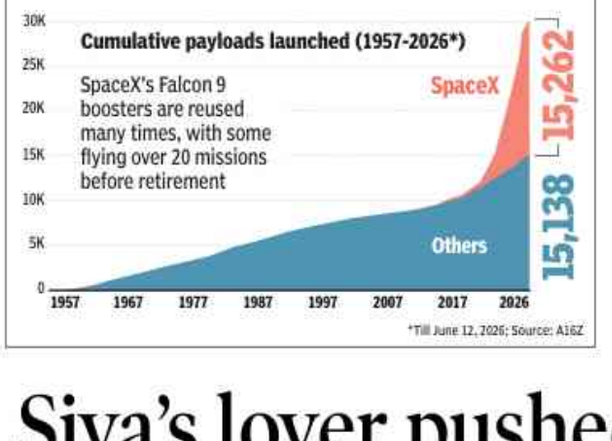
Airlines turn to AI to save fuel, IndiGo to start trials on Airbus fleet from today

After doing everything humanely possible to cut fuel burn, Indian airlines have turned to AI to help save the expensive black gold. IndiGo has asked its pilots to use the "OptiClimb solution" on a trial basis from Thursday on its Airbus fleet, reports **Saurabh Sinha**. Instead of taking off at a constant speed, pilots will use varying speeds wherever possible. The airline aims to save 60-65 kg of fuel per take-off. With about 2,000 daily flights, the savings could be significant. Lower fuel burn also means lower emissions. In a mail to about 6,000 pilots, Captain Ashim Mittra, IndiGo's senior VP (flight operations), said the airline has been working with SITA on OptiClimb, an AI-powered flight optimisation solution that helps reduce fuel burn and carbon emissions during the climb phase, which accounts for the highest rate of fuel consumption during a flight. By considering actual aircraft performance, planned take-off weight, cruise altitude and atmospheric conditions, OptiClimb enables more efficient climb profiles, delivering reductions in fuel consumption and emissions while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. With next-generation aircraft still years away, AI could help airlines save more fuel. Captain Mittra said the initiative aims to enhance fuel efficiency, reduce carbon footprint and strengthen operational sustainability while ensuring adherence to ATC requirements and safe operating practices.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

The No. 1 driver of traffic to space is a private company

In 2025, SpaceX carried 83% of all mass launched into orbit. It has now sent up more payload — satellites, probes, etc — than the rest of the world combined, even though space agencies like Nasa have had a 50-year head start on the Elon Musk-led company



*Till June 12, 2026; Source: A16Z

C'garh village ousts Christians, officials broker a compromise

Can Go Home But Can't Hold Prayers & 'Ghar Wapsi Must In A Month'

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Tensions that have been simmering since Dec escalated after a June 9 clash amid religious conversion allegations. (R) The latest flashpoint came after villagers alleged prayer gatherings and demanded that Christian families leave

Raipur: Tension flared in a village in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district Tuesday after 26 Christian families were allegedly asked to leave by fellow villagers over a long-running dispute linked to religious conversion, prompting heavy police deployment and day-long negotiations.

The standoff at Bharanda village continued till late in the night before district authorities brokered a compromise, allowing the families to return to their homes.

According to officials, tensions had been simmering since Dec last year and escalated after a clash between the two groups on June 9. Christian families alleged social boycott and targeting because of their faith, while tribal residents claimed religious conversions were affecting traditional customs, social practices and community institutions.

The latest flashpoint came after a village meeting where residents alleged religious activities and prayer gatherings and demanded that the Christian families leave.

Assistant superintendent Sushil Nayak said nearly 13-14 rounds of discussions were held before a settlement was reached late in the night.

Under the compromise, the Christian families can continue living in the village, but no religious activities, including home prayers or last rites, will take place within the settlement. Villagers also said those who adopted Christianity should return to their native religion within a month.

Officials said no violence was reported. Police said the situation was peaceful on Wednesday and would continue to be monitored.

With 'Protein Mess', IIT-M seeks to add brawn to brains

Manash.Gohain
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Photo for representation

NUTRITION DRIVE

New Delhi: Fish curry, chicken yakhni pulao, paneer tikka and tossed soya chunks are now part of IIT-Madras's effort to improve sporting performance. The institute has introduced a dedicated "Protein Mess", backed by academic flexibility, fitness training and psychological conditioning for student-athletes.

Described by IIT-M as the first such facility among the 23 IITs, the mess provides protein-rich meals designed in consultation with professional nutritionists. Its rotating menu also includes mutton rogan josh, egg bhurji, sprouts, dal makhani, sweet potato and chickpea sundal.

The initiative is intended to support muscle recovery, endurance and sustained training. Ahead of Inter-IIT competitions, probable athletes and members of the institute contingent were given access to the specialised diet for three months, replacing nutrition support previously concentrated around a 15-day preparatory camp.

Athletes paid half the cost, while the remaining amount was covered through institutional and alumni support. The institute, however, has not disclosed the number of beneficiaries, total subsidy or the protein and calorie content of individual meals.

The dining initiative forms part of a wider support system for students representing IIT-M at tournaments. "To support student-athletes, IIT-Madras has introduced academic flexibility measures such as attendance relaxation for tournaments, makeup examinations for missed quizzes and end-of-semester examinations," dean (students) Sathyanarayana N Gummadi said. The system also includes fitness training and psychological conditioning.

Director V Kamakoti said sports and the arts promoted "teamwork, attention to detail, good health and good mental balance", qualities needed for success in life.

The institute has also created an admission pathway for accomplished sportspersons. It became the first IIT to introduce sports excellence admission in 2024-25, offering supernumerary undergraduate seats to candidates who qualify JEE Advanced and meet prescribed sporting criteria. Fourteen students joined IIT-M through this route during the 2024 and 2025 admission cycles.

Since 2024, IIT-Madras has also incorporated recreational sports into the first-year curriculum, including athletics, volleyball, basketball and handball.

Man killed on Mumbai local after row over closing door during rain

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Roshan Suvarna was held within 48 hours of the murder of a co-traveller on a local train in Mumbai

Mumbai: A 21-year-old graduate returning home from work by a crowded local during heavy rain was stabbed to death by a 30-year-old co-passenger following an argument over keeping the door closed in a first class coash of a Churchgate-Nalasopara train Tuesday night.

Police sources said Roshan Suvarna of Mira-Bhayander felt humiliated after being told off for opening the door and pulled out a large knife from a bag and stabbed Virar resident Mayank Lohar in the chest and abdomen repeatedly as others looked on in terror. He was caught in Panvel while allegedly planning an escape to his hometown in Karnataka.

Police said the two had an argument earlier over the same issue and were separated by others. A video recorded by a passenger showed him brandishing the knife after the killing and threatening onlookers.

Police said Suvarna, who makes barcodes for an organisation, had had a squabble with an auto driver earlier and are probing whether he was drunk. The knife is yet to be recovered. He told police he bought it online for a friend. So far, police have not come across any prior criminal offence registered against him.

The murder came five months after a junior college teacher was stabbed with a pair of tongs by a co-traveller in a local following a dispute over alighting at Malad.

According to police, there was a minor scuffle between the two, following which co-passengers came out in Lohar's support and a few of them manhandled Suvarna. They separated the two men and sent them towards different exits of the coach. Police suspect Suvarna felt humiliated after being manhandled and blamed Lohar for it.

Govt maintained delicate balance in ties with US and Iran

▶ Continued from page 1

The multi-day funeral delayed by the conflict is slated to officially begin on July 4. Iran has invited Modi and other leaders for a related event on July 3. India did not explicitly condemn the attacks on Iran during the conflict, even though it denounced Iran's attacks on its Gulf neighbours on several occasion. Govt, however, has worked to ensure a delicate balance in relations with Iran against its strategic ties with both Israel and the US, given the volatile geopolitical situation and the subsequent war that led to Khamenei's death. Official sources said a decision is expected in the next few days on who would represent India.

Man gets 20 yrs' RI for raping minor girl

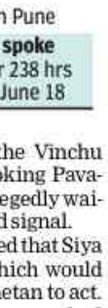
Palanpur: A 21-year-old man was sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a Class IX student, whom he had contacted on Instagram and lured with the promise of marriage. KK Shukla, special Pocso court judge in Modasa town of Gujarat's Aravali district, sentenced him Tuesday. TNN

Siya's lover pushed Pune realtor off cliff after signal from her: Police

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

238 HRS ON PHONE

- Cops **suspicious as Siya changed statements** after Ketan's fall. Moreover, there was **no photo of their trek** that day on her phone



- Chetan tried to avoid detection by leaving his phone in Pune
- Chetan and Siya **spoke over 2,000 times** for 238 hrs between Jan 1 and June 18

Pune: Murder suspect Siya Goyal had been in a relationship with co-accused Chetan Chaudhary for around eight months, making 2,000-odd calls to each other and clocking 238 hours of conversation from Jan 1 till the June 18 death of her realtor fiancé Ketan Agarwal, investigators said Wednesday as new details emerged of how the duo allegedly staged his fatal fall from a cliff edge at Lohagad Fort.

Deputy SP (Pune rural) Gajanan Tompe said Market Yard resident Siya, 20, continued seeing and talking to Chetan for long hours even after getting engaged to Ketan in Feb. The suspects meticulously plotted the realtor's murder after Siya decided she wouldn't marry him.

On June 18, a day before Siya's birthday, Chetan was at Lohagad Fort wearing a hoodie to avoid being recognised and followed the couple to a secluded cliff near the Vinchu Kata ridge, overlooking Pavana dam. He then allegedly waited for a pre-decided signal.

"They had agreed that Siya would sit down, which would be the signal for Chetan to act. Once she did, he approached Ketan from behind and pushed him off the cliff before fleeing," Tompe said.

After three previous abortive attempts to execute the murder plan, Siya had convinced Ketan to accompany her to Lohagad near Lonavala, around 52km from Pune, for a hike. The breakthrough in the investigation came from CCTV footage of 22-year-old Chetan near the Lohagad foothills. "The man in the hoodie spent less than 10 minutes at the top of the fort and completed the ascent and descent in under 50 minutes. A security guard recalled the man claiming he had come for exercise when questioned about his entry," inspector Dinesh Tayade of Lonavla rural police said.

Siya's inconsistent accounts of how Ketan fell to his death were the initial red flags. "She first claimed the victim slipped while posing for a photograph, only to say later that he fell while handing her a water bottle. We found no pictures of them on her mobile phone from that day," Tayade said.

Investigators also found out that Siya got a planned pre-wedding trip to Bali on June 6 cancelled by tearing Ketan's passport and discarding it in a restroom near the Khalapur toll plaza. "She has since admitted to the act, saying Chetan opposed the trip," Tayade said.

Police believe Chetan attempted to cut off any potential trail leading to him by leaving his mobile phone at his Market Yard shop on the day of Ketan's murder. He carried an employee's phone with him. The employee is being questioned. Tayade said the pair chose the fort as the murder location because it was isolated and typically received fewer visitors on weekdays. Sunil Gaikwad of Shivdurga Mitra, who assisted in retrieving Ketan's body, said hardly anyone visited that spot between Monday and Wednesday.

Siya and Chetan's families knew each other through business, police said. Chetan's uncle Udaram said he was unaware of any relationship between Siya and his nephew, a BBA student and cricketer.

30 India-bound ships have crossed Hormuz so far

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

Among the 30 that have reached or are heading to Indian ports, 17 are foreign-flagged vessels

New Delhi: So far 30 India-bound ships have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and 26 wait to cross the critical sea route, sources in shipping ministry said. While half of the ships that have transited the strait carried LPG and LNG, eight had bulk cargo and seven were crude tankers.

Officials said while 19 transits happened between March 1 and June 17, following the signing of the Iran-US MoU 11 ships have crossed the strait safely. Among the 30 that have reached or are heading to Indian ports, 17 are foreign-flagged vessels, including a maximum of five Marshall Islands-flagged ships.

TOI has learnt that of the 26 vessels of Indian interest — both Indian-flagged and India-bound foreign-flagged ships — that remain in the Persian Gulf (west of Strait of Hormuz) three are carrying energy, 10 fertilisers and remaining 13 carrying other cargo.

The Strait of Hormuz, which is an international waterway, accounts for over a fifth of the supply of energy globally. For India, its key partners for procurement of LNG and LPG emanate from the Gulf countries.

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'I'm answerable on NEET leak, but oppn and Rahul created anarchy'

Union education minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** *told* TOI's **Manash Gohain** *the NEET episode 'should not have happened', but accused Congress of trying to exploit student anxiety. Excerpts:*

You've accused the opposition of politicising exam controversies. Does opposing amount to politicising it?

■ India is a democracy, and criticism is a citizen's right — but intent and timing matter. Whatever happened should not have happened, and I hold myself responsible and answerable; it is also the department's duty to fix it and bring the system back on track. We don't fear criticism, we learn from it — that is our govt's character. But these are young children, and nothing should raise their mental stress.

TOI INTERVIEW

Congress and the leader of the opposition were waiting to disrupt NEET, leaving nothing undone. In the Nagpur case, the student chose Abu Dhabi himself. NTA had no fault, yet rectified it proactively; but the father still attacked NTA publicly. And, within minutes, Rahul Gandhi jumped in. This nexus proves their role is to create anarchy, not act responsibly. They crossed all limits. In Bengaluru, their rally honouring party netas stopped many students reaching their exam centres. Rahul Gandhi must apologise unconditionally.

You have also called Cockroach Janta Party a proxy. Whose proxy?

■ Everyone knew what they wanted to do, their agenda. But that plan was not happening according to their expectation. Who joins them? The *andolan jeevi*, those who do not want the system to be built, those with a mindset of perennially disturbing the system, comes with them. They are the same old people, rejected in democracy. I am also a social worker. I too have come from the student movement and welcome criticism. If there is something to learn from it, I also meet people. But your objective is stunt-*baazi*.

Did NTA insiders breach trust?

■ CBI is investigating. Prima facie, some of NTA's own people are involved — there is no doubt about that. But it would be inappropriate to comment further now. The inquiry will conclude very soon.

NTA will be radically transformed into a transparent, accountable body, and its image repaired. The 22-23 lakh candidates who appear for NEET next year will move to CBT, just as JEE, UGC-NET, CSIR-NET and the ICAR entrance exams. NTA examines nearly 1 crore students every year. After eight years, reform is absolutely necessary, drawn from experience and wider consultation.

Will NEET be held more than once a year and how big a challenge is it to move into CBT mode?

■ It is open for discussion. The Radhakrishnan Committee, accountable to Supreme Court, made medium- and long-term recommendations. Through broader public consultation — involving students, teachers and opinion-makers — we will decide on multiple attempts and on decentralising the conduct of the exam, and convert the right suggestions into policy.

What led to the cancellation of NEET-UG?

■ NEET was held on May 3. On May 7, the whistleblower informed the NTA DG. The NTA DG brought that issue before me. We spoke to govt agencies concerned. It was found that there had been a compromise. It was placed before the PM and the home minister. The leadership decided that, keeping the future of the country's children in mind, we will not allow even one good student's interest to be compromised in the hands of the education mafia. We took the decision to cancel the exam.

CBSE's on-screen marking is another controversy.

■ A student has every right to re-check and verify their own answer sheet. Prima facie, OSM was implemented in haste. The then-CBSE leadership should have listened to whistleblowers with greater sensitivity. CBSE will have to think through how to proceed, and consult parents, teachers and students.

Cyberattacks have exposed vulnerabilities in the digital infrastructure of CBSE.

■ The CBSE evaluation portal faced 30 lakh cyberattacks within minutes, but our system was robust and held. Our own agency, I4C, had warned that such disruption was possible. No system is accident-proof — I regard this as a one-time accident. We will fix it, not run from it. CERT-In and our IT teams will continue regular monitoring, because this is about the country's digital infrastructure, not CBSE alone.

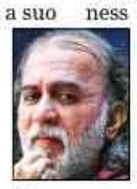
How do you view whistleblowers?

■ Whistleblowers have a role and should be valued, within decorum. In NTA, the alert was acted upon in time. CBSE's leadership should have listened more sensitively. Even a three-line suggestion must not be ignored. Children, teachers, experts and opinion-makers must be heard, and the right suggestions converted into policy.

Tejpal case: Goa govt asks why was 2-word 12.16am text ignored

Lisa.Monteiro @timesofindia.com

Panaji: A two-word text saying "the fingertips" sent past midnight to a young woman by a man old enough to be her father could not be brushed aside in the context of a rape case, Goa govt argued in Bombay HC this week, while appealing the 2021 acquittal of journalist and Tehelka founder **Tarun Tejpal**.



The case, based on a suo motu FIR registered by Goa Police in Nov 2013, dragged for almost eight years before a sessions court in Mapusa absolved Tejpal of the charge of sexually assaulting a colleague in a five-star hotel lift.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta termed the trial court's consideration of the evidence "perversity at its peak". He said, "If a girl is talking about sexual overtones, some messages, jokes which have some adult content, then it's OK to do whatever the accused did?"

The two-word text Mehta referred to as being crucial was sent at 12.16am, hours after the alleged assault. "What can be the meaning of the context of a message sent after midnight, saying 'the fingertips'?" the SG said.

On the trial court's observation that she was "slightly drunk", Mehta said, "You cannot do this even to a drunk woman or a prostitute."

Mehta challenged the trial court's contention that she did not try to scratch the accused or call for help. He also argued against the observation that the survivor did not cry to a close friend she met afterwards. He said a "major portion" of the decision to acquit Tejpal rested on the testimony of this witness despite him deposing that he had no knowledge of the incident.

CCTV footage from the hotel was shown to the judges in their chamber.

Mehta said the trial court "ignored" Tejpal's apology, in which he described what happened as the "encounter". Nobody disputed the apology, he pointed out.

The SG added that the survivor never wanted to tarnish Tejpal's image. She only wanted the organisation to constitute a committee under Vishaka guidelines. "The motive is absent as she never goes to the police herself," he said.

Tejpal's lawyer sought access to CCTV footage, texts and other records from the court, saying both trial court defence lawyers had died. The bench permitted the sealed records to be opened in both sides' presence.

No proof of accident, but car owner wins ₹1.3 lakh claim

Surat: A car owner has secured an insurance claim of Rs 1.3 lakh even though he failed to conclusively establish the circumstances of the accident that damaged his vehicle, reports **Vishal Patadiya**.

Navsari resident Chirag Desai claimed his car met with an accident with a truck June 20, 2023. ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co Ltd appointed a surveyor to assess the damage. On July 27, 2023, it rejected the claim, because the "cause of loss was not justified".

After examining the evidence, Navsari Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission noted the complainant had failed to provide key details about the alleged collision, including the truck's registration number and the driver's identity. It observed that although the accident itself remained unproven, the damage to the vehicle was undisputed.

"Based on the circumstances and suspicious aspects of the case, the complainant has failed to prove the accident. However, the fact remains that the car was damaged, making him eligible for compensation for the loss," the commission observed.

Barkatullah Univ renaming proposal nixed

Bhopal: The proposal to rename Bhopal's Barkatullah University 'Vagdevi Bhojpal University' has been abandoned in the wake of sustained opposition from students and faculty, followed by the resignation of vice-chancellor SK Jain last week, reports **Ramendra Singh**.

The university is named after Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali, a freedom fighter and PM of India's first govt-in-exile. The executive council, which had earlier accepted the proposal, has now decided not to pursue the matter further. An executive council member said, "The focus now is on administrative affairs."

NCERT delays Nazism, French Revolution by a yr for students

Manash.Gohain @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The French Revolution, the Russian Revolution and Nazism will no longer be part of the Class IX history syllabus. NCERT officials said these modern world history themes will be taken up in Class X as part of secondary-stage progression, while the new Class IX textbook will chart the story of early humans, the Harappan world and the ancient civilisations of Mesopotamia, Egypt and China.

Titled 'Understanding Society: India and Beyond, Part 1', the new textbook marks one of the sharpest curricular shifts at the secondary stage. It replaces four books — India and the Contemporary World-I, Contemporary India-I, Democratic Politics-I and Economics — with an integrated two-part volume of 16 thematic chapters under National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023.

SYLLABUS SHIFT

Class IX now begins with early humans, the beginnings of civilisation and the Harappan world. The book also changes the treatment of Indian history. A chapter on 'State and Society up to 1000 CE' brings in the Vedic age, the sixteen Mahajanapadas, duties of the king as discussed in the Arthashastra and the Mahabharata, the role of women in early India and the gurukul system. The emphasis is less on stand-alone political chronology and more on civilisational continuities, institutions and Indian Knowledge Systems.

Geography, too, has been reframed. Instead of starting with India's size, location, drainage and population, students now begin with the shaping of the earth's surface, landforms, rivers and erosion, and disasters such as landslides. Climate change, the 2025 Punjab floods and an activity on mapping one's carbon footprint enter the Class IX classroom more directly.

PM: Collective bid led to NEET retest success

New Delhi: PM **Narendra Modi** Wednesday said it was because of the "whole-of-govt" approach that the challenging task of holding a hassle-free NEET-UG retest could be completed, as he hailed the collective efforts of different ministries and departments for the June 21 exam's smooth conduct.

Modi made these remarks while chairing a cabinet meeting, where Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan briefed ministers about the massive operation for the retest.

TOI has learned Pradhan shared the responsibilities undertaken by ministries, state govts and departments and also highlighted how all came together for a "shared and coordinated effort".

To hold the retest, the Centre also roped in security and intelligence agencies as well as Indian Air Force to transport question papers. TNN

Bengal eyes stringent law to fight crime syndicates

Debashis.Konar @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Bengal is going to get a new, stringent law to curb criminal activity by organised syndicates or gangs. It will provide for detention that can last from a fortnight to a month, set up special courts for faster trials, and create a clear route for confiscation and auction of assets, while allowing restitution if an accused is cleared by court.

CM **Suvendu Adhikari** said a bill will be introduced in the current assembly session. Officials say govt is consulting legal experts and studying similar laws elsewhere, while building a dedicated special court to handle syndicate-related cases.

While BNSS Section 107 provides for property attachment, Calcutta HC recently warned police and trial courts against using it mechanically, pushing the state to spell out a tighter process.

An official said, "The IO is to determine if the property is derived directly or indirectly from criminal activity. The IO will obtain approval from the SP or DC and make an application for attachment before the court. Later, it will be auctioned, and the proceeds will go to the exchequer."

If the court later acquits the accused, the state will return the auction proceeds.

Plans include death sentences or life imprisonment in cases where syndicate violence causes death, sources said. For grievous hurt, proposed punishments could be prison terms of seven years or more, along with an additional fine of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

UBT MPs meet Birla, question rebels' Shinde Sena merger

New Delhi/Mumbai: In a meeting with Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** Wednesday, Sena UBT said two-thirds of its MPs cannot merge with another party on their own, without the initiative of their original party, and urged him to uphold provisions of the Constitution's 10th Schedule.

Birla is expected to make a decision before the monsoon session of Parliament, which normally begins in the second half of July, and is consulting legal experts and both sides.

Two of the party's remaining three Lok Sabha MPs, Arvind Sawant and Anil Desai, met Birla, who had called them following their submission to him that they must be heard before he makes a decision on six of their colleagues joining Shiv Sena headed by Eknath Shinde. "We have confidence that the Speaker as a custodian of Parliament will ensure that justice is done," Desai said. TNN

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I, Poonam Khattar, W/o Ashok Sharma, aged 63 years, residing at B-2016, Sobha Suncrest Apartments, Off Kanakapura Road, Manavarthekaval, Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru - 560062, have changed my name from Poonam Khattar to Poornima Sharma vide Affidavit dated 07/May/2026 sworn before a Notary Public at Bengaluru. Henceforth, I shall be known as Poornima Sharma for all purposes.

I, HARDIK MADANI, S/o PRADIPKUMAR HARKISHANDAS MADANI, R/o Bengaluru, Karnataka, have changed my name from HARDIK PRADIPBHAI MADANI to HARDIK MADANI for maintaining uniformity in all documents and records, vide Affidavit dated Jun 20, 2026 sworn before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

I, Manjunath S.A., father and guardian of minor Nesha Mythri Saklu, declare that her name is changed to Anushka vide Affidavit dated 02.06.2026. Henceforth she shall be known as Anushka.

I, Manjunath S.A., father and guardian of minor Sanjitha Rachana Saklu, declare that her name is changed to Anvitha vide Affidavit dated 02.06.2026. Henceforth she shall be known as Anvitha.

CHANGE OF NAME

I N Bhavani W/o Kishore Kumar Karlambakam, Residing at: # 07, 2nd cross B Chikkanna Layout, Near Maheshwari Temple, Maheshwari Nagar, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048 ,Karnataka,INDIA have changed my daughter name from INCHARA K to INCHARA KARLAMBAKAM for all future purposes.

I, Karthik Kundagallu Nagaraja Bhat S/o Nagaraja Bhat Kundagallu Narayana Bhat, aged 29 Years No.108, Kundagallu, Brahamanavada Village, Nagara, Shivamogga-577425 .I Have changed my name Karthik Kundagallu Nagaraja Bhat into Karthik Kundagallu Nagaraja. Henceforth, I shall be Known as Karthik Kundagallu Nagaraja For all official Purposes vide Affidavit dt 24/6/26 Notary Vanajakshi.R Bangalore

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING TO INFANT JESUS for once again answering my prayers during the 9 Thursday novena. - [Shibu V Mathew]

Lab owners were intimidated to say they gave fake reports: Mann

Chandigarh: A day after Gurgaon Police registered an FIR on the 'sacrilege' video controversy, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday alleged forensic lab owners were "intimidated" to force them to claim they were paid money to prepare a false report.

Reacting to these claims, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini said they couldn't even think of such things in a matter concerning the Gurus, **reports Vibhor Mohan**.

Mann alleged collusion between BJP, Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal.

Mann accused the opposition of using religion to defame him by misleading people through "fabricated propaganda".

India calls for Brics shared space economy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Calling space the next frontier of global economic growth, junior space minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday urged Brics nations to work together to build a "Brics Space Economy", arguing that no single country can shape the future of the sector alone. Addressing the valedictory session of the Brics Heads of Space Agencies (Hosa) meeting in Bengaluru, Singh said the bloc possesses the scientific expertise, technological capabilities and industrial strength needed to emerge as a major force in the rapidly expanding global space economy.

"The future of the space economy will not be shaped by nations working in isolation. It will be shaped by partnerships, shared innovation and collective ambition," Singh said. "Brics countries have the potential to become one of the strongest pillars of this emerging global space ecosystem."

Isro chairman V Narayanan said: "A total of 26 delegates from 10 countries participated. There were extensive discussions on the utilisation of the Brics Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation (RSSC) for the socio-economic benefit of member countries, including applications in disaster management, climate change monitoring, and other areas."

"We also discussed debris-free mission management systems to ensure the long-term sustainability of space activities. It was a very productive meeting. Along with the five Brics nations, five more countries were part of this initiative," he said.

The two-day meeting, hosted by Isro under India's Brics Chairship 2026, brought together heads of space agencies and senior officials from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

At a time when countries are increasingly looking to space-based technologies for economic and developmental gains, Singh positioned cooperation among Brics members as a pathway to innovation, investment and sustainable growth. He said the grouping, which accounts for a significant share of the world's population and economic output, is uniquely placed to leverage space technology for addressing common challenges.

"Challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, food and water security, environmental degradation and sustainable urbanisation increasingly require collective solutions supported by advanced space technologies," he said.

The discussions focused on strengthening existing cooperation mechanisms and identifying new areas of collaboration. Delegates reviewed progress on the RSSC, which enables satellite data sharing among member nations, and discussed expanding participation of newer Brics members in ongoing initiatives.

A major theme of the meeting was the need for stronger institutional frameworks. Singh expressed confidence that deliberations on the proposed Brics Space Council would provide continuity and momentum to future cooperation efforts. He also called for the partnership to evolve beyond dialogue and information-sharing.

India reaffirmed its commitment to deeper engagement with Brics partners.

BMC staffer falls into flooded open drain during mayor's inspection

Richa.Pinto@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Mumbai mayor Ritu Tawde's on-ground inspection of severe waterlogging in King Circle's Gandhi Market area Wednesday witnessed high drama when a BMC staffer fell waist-deep into an open drain a few feet away from where she was standing. While he was immediately pulled out and was unharmed, the mayor lost her cool.

A furious Tawde reprimanded civic officials present, and threatened to suspend ward officers if manholes and water channels connected to the stormwater drainage network are left open in their areas.

The incident sparked political backlash with opposition accusing the mayor of inaction and corruption

Tawde, who reviewed BMC's pumping systems at the low-lying and chronic flooding spot after overnight heavy rainfall, said the grille over the water channel had been removed during a drain-cleaning operation and barricades had been placed at the site. "The man should have read the 'alert' signs and seen the barricades put around it," she said, as she continued her tour of areas affected by waterlogging.

A viral video of the incident shows the 'mukadam (supervisor)' from BMC's F-North ward, who was part of the civic team accompanying the mayor, stepping onto the road and falling into the rainwater-filled drain even as people around him came to the rescue. He did not suffer any injuries. The civic team apologised to the mayor.

Pilots, ATCO grounded after AI flight enters Pak airspace

Saurabh Sinha @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: An Air India Delhi-Amritsar flight "marginally infringed" into Pakistan airspace briefly earlier this week while waiting to land at its destination. The crew "coordinated with Pakistan (Lahore) air traffic control" and exited the country in about 15 seconds.

The aviation ministry said an "air traffic controller (ATCO) at Amritsar and the operating crew" did not report the event because of which "interim action has been taken against" them, and they have been grounded pending a probe.

The Airbus A321 (VT-PPT), operating as AI 479, took off from Delhi at 9.07 pm on Monday. An aircraft which had landed at Amritsar before AI 479 reported a bird-hit, and runway inspection was being carried out there to check for any remains on the airstrip. Because of that, AI 479 was asked to 'hold'. During this time, the aircraft accidentally veered into Pakistan airspace.

After exiting the Pakistan airspace, the crew operating AI 479, which was descending from 16,000 feet to approach their destination, decided to divert to the alternate airport, which happened to be the origin — Delhi.

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Andhra gold mine ends Hutti's monopoly, back after 2,000 yrs

Samdani.MN@timesofindia.com

Vijayawada: A gold mine in AP's Kurnool district that last produced gold during Emperor Ashoka's reign in the 3rd century BCE became operational Wednesday as India's first private-sector gold mining project, breaking the near-total monopoly of Karnataka's govt-owned Hutti mines, which currently account for 99% of the country's indigenous gold output.

The Jonnagiri mine, operated by Geomysore Services and Triveni Earthmovers, is estimated to produce about 400kg of gold annually in the first phase, contributing roughly 20% of India's domestic gold production. Once the second phase is completed within the targeted three years, output is expected to rise to two tonnes annually. Potentially, that will account for 50% or more of domestic production.

CM N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurates the Geomysore gold mine project in Jonnagiri, Wednesday

India currently produces around 1.5 tonnes of gold a year, barely 1% of its total annual consumption in a country where the glitter of wealth has traditionally been deemed incomplete without some gold stacked away. The project, set up with an investment of Rs 405 crore, will earn the AP govt a 4% royalty on the value of gold produced, translating to about Rs 57 crore annually at present output levels.

CM N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the production unit and launched work on the second phase Wednesday. The TDP govt also renamed Jonnagiri village as Swarnagiri — its original name was Suvarnagiri, translating to mount of gold — to mark the revival of production. "This project will become a growth engine not only for Rayalaseema but for the whole of India," CM Naidu told the gathering.

Flood-hit Assam sounds alert as Arunachal rains leave 1 dead

ANI

Destruction caused by heavy flash floods at NEEPCO colony, in Keyi Panyor on Wednesday

Kangkan Kalita & Joken Ete | TNN

Guwahati/Itanagar: A flash flood triggered by a downpour in Arunachal Pradesh left one person dead and four missing Wednesday, and raised fears of the situation worsening in flood-hit Assam, prompting the state authorities to sound a high alert.

A 13-year-old boy was among four persons missing, while 17 others were injured after the devastating flash flood ripped through the Northeastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd's (NEEPCO) Panyor hydel project colony and an adjoining village in Arunachal's Keyi Panyor district. Five people were reported missing from the NEEPCO colony. The body of one of them, Nirmala Gupta (35), was later found, while others remained untraced.

"She was in the house when the flash flood hit the area. Her children and husband managed to escape, " Likha Tejji, additional deputy commissioner, told **TOI**. Among the injured, three were critical and were shifted to Ziro by ambulance for treatment.

The district disaster management officer said the flash flood, triggered by a 3-hour rain, damaged 20 houses and swept away several vehicles in the NEEPCO township and the adjacent Poosa village. An IAF chopper was used to airlift SDRF personnel with rescue equipment from Itanagar to Pitapool near the affected area, Dulom added.

The Panyor Lower Hydroelectric Project, from where excess water was released following the flood, has put downstream areas in Assam on alert. Assam's water resources minister Sushanta Borgohain visited flood-prone areas near the Arunachal border in Lakhimpur district and expressed concern over the situationThe incessant rain in Arunachal also triggered major landslides along the ICR-Hoj-Yazali national highway stretch and the Kimin route.

VTB

PUBLIC NOTICE

Shifting of Branch

We, JSC VTB Bank have shifted our Branch Office from
The Taj Mahal Hotel,
The Lobby Mezzanine Floor,
No. 1 Mansingh Road,
New Delhi 110011

To:
The Hindustan Times House,
18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
First Floor,
New Delhi 110001

Our Branch will function from the above-mentioned address from 25.06.2026.

By the order - CEO-Branch Manager

KARNATAK UNIVERSITY
University with Potential for Excellence
'A' Grade NAAC Accredited
Pavate Nagar, Dharwad - 580 003
Phone : 0836-2215270, E-mail : academic.pg@kud.ac.in

No. : K.U./Aca/P.G./Ph.D/NHT/2026-27/81 Date : 23-06-2026

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR PG PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Karnatak University, Dharwad has invited Applications for all **PG Programmes / PG Diploma / Diploma / Advanced Diploma and Certificate Programmes of First Semester Admission for the academic year 2026-27 from 25-06-2026.**

Eligibility conditions, Number of seats available, **Entrance Test Date, Admission Counselling Dates** & all other details can be had from **University Website : www.kud.ac.in** or from the respective **P.G. Departments K.U. Dharwad.**

DIPR/Dharwad/353/Manipal/2026-27

Sd/- Registrar,
Karnatak University, Dharwad.

UTTARAKHAND REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (UKRERA)
5th Floor, Rajiv Gandhi Multipurpose Complex,
Dispensary Road, Dehradun – 248001, Uttarakhand
E-mail: ukrera2017@gmail.com | Tel.: 0135-2710348

ADVERTISEMENT

Appointment of Chairperson and Member in Uttarakhand Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UKRERA)

In pursuance of Section 21 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the Government of Uttarakhand invites applications from eligible and experienced professionals for appointment to the following positions in the Uttarakhand Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UKRERA):

Position	Number of Posts
Chairperson	01
Member	01

The eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, terms and conditions of appointment, and application format are available on the official website of UKRERA.

Interested candidates may download the application form and detailed advertisement from the website: **www.ukrera.uk.gov.in**

Completed applications in the prescribed format, along with all supporting documents, should reach the office of the Uttarakhand Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UKRERA) on or before **05:00 PM on 15th July 2026**.

Applications received after the prescribed date and time or found incomplete in any respect shall not be considered.

Secretary
UKRERA, Dehradun

K RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT
Regd. Office: K-RIDE, Samparka Soudha, 1st Floor, Opp. Orion Mall, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bangalore - 560010 Email ID- dgm@kride.in

No. KRIDE/HR/195/Vacancy Notification/08/2026 Date: 23.06.2026

Vacancy Notice No. 21/2026

K-RIDE, a JV of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways, executing the BANGALORE SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT & RAILWAY DOUBLING PROJECTS, & other Railway doubling projects invites applications for the following post on Deputation / Contractual basis.

Vacancy Notice No.	Post	No. of Posts	Grade
21/2026	Chief Safety Officer	01	E8

Last date for submitting application is 09/07/2026.
For detailed eligibility conditions and other details please visit:
https://kride.in/careers-in-k-ride/.

DIPR/CP/YC/1321/2026-27

Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER/HR (I/c)

KridePrm | Kride Bsrp | kride_bsrp | KRIDE,BSRP

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
Kartavya Bhavan-3, New Delhi - 110001

Recruitment Notice

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad is an autonomous organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of Rural Development. NIRD&PR undertakes training, research, action research and consultancy functions in rural development. It provides an interdisciplinary academic environment, backed by an excellent infrastructure and state-of-art research and computer facilities.

The Ministry invites applications in prescribed format for the post of Deputy Director General in NIRD&PR, Hyderabad.

1	Pay Band and Grade Pay (6th CPC)	Rs. 37,400-67,000 (PB4) + GP Rs. 10000/-
2	Method of Recruitment	Deputation basis
3	Tenure	5 years or until he/she attains the age of 60 years, whichever is earlier
4	Age limit for Direct Recruits	Preferably below 50 years
5	Age limit for appointment by Deputation	56 years on closing date of receipt of applications

Applications in the prescribed format should be sent through the Cadre Controlling Authority/Department to the Deputy Secretary (Training), Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development, Room No. 16, Core-5A, Second Floor, India Habitat Center, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003. Details regarding qualifications and experience along with application form may be downloaded from **https://www.dord.gov.in/** or **www.nird.org.in**

LAST DATE: 31.07.2026

Advt. No. 1/2026 (**No. K-15017/01/2026-Trg.**)

CBC 35101/11/0004/2627

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India
Email - **pradeep.kr67@nic.in**

बाइरैक **birac**
जैव प्रौद्योगिकी उद्योग अनुसंधान सहायता परिषद्
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Ref. No. BIRAC/VAC/ADV-22/June/01

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit Section 8, Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India invites online applications for the following position:-

Position Code	Positions	No. of Vacancies
CON-64	Associate Consultant - Clean Energy	01

For further details regarding qualification, experience, eligibility criteria, pay-scales etc. please visit BIRAC website **www.birac.nic.in**
Last Date for Online Applications : July 12, 2026

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई- प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra- 282006 (U.P)
EFC- Bangalore Organizes Online Training Program On

MASTERING POWER BI for DATA ANALYTICS

COURSE CONTENT: • Introduction to Power BI • Data Sources and Loading Data-Data Modeling • Building Visualizations • Advanced Visualization Techniques • Power BI Dashboards • Power BI Service • Power BI Data Analysis • Power BI Security, Power BI Integration

DATE / दिनांक: **28th June 2026 & 4th, 5th, 11th July 2026 (Weekend)**
TIME / समय: **3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**
FEES / शुल्क: **Rs. 4720/- (Incl. of GST)**
Website: www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
CONTACT: 6363055419 / 8073288128
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

For Registration

RVUN | RVPN | JVVN | AVVN | JdVVN

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) – U40102RJ2000SGC016484
Regd. Office & H.O.: Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur–302005.

No:RVUN/P&A/Rectt.2026-27/F.103/D. 120 June 24, 2026

Common Recruitment in State Power Companies of Rajasthan for Junior Engineers, Junior Accountant & Junior Assistant/ Commercial Assistant-II
(Advertisement No. RVUN/Rectt.-2026-27/01)

Rajasthan State Power Sector invites online applications for recruitment to the posts of Junior Engineer-I, Junior Accountant and Junior Assistant/ Commercial Assistant-II in following five Vidyut Nigams:-

1. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RVUN) - The State Genco
2. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. (RVPN) - The State Transco
3. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (JVVN) }
4. Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (AVVN) } - The State Discoms
5. Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (JdVVN) }

Total Vacancies: 2005 Nos. (JEn–869; Jr.Acctt.–371; Jr.Asstt./ CA-II–765)
(Including back-log & TSP Area vacancies)

S. No.	Name of Post	RVUN	RVPN	JVVN	AVVN	JdVVN	Total
1	JEN-I (Electrical)	109	162	189	144	123	**727**
2	JEN-I (Mechanical)	110	0	0	0	0	**110**
3	JEN-I (Civil)	0	32	0	0	0	**32**
4	Junior Accountant	44	28	116	48	135	**371**
5	Junior Assistant/ Commercial Assistant-II	45	41	288	201	190	**765**
	Total	**308**	**263**	**593**	**393**	**448**	**2005**

Reservation of vacancies for SC/ ST/ BC/ MBC/ EWS/ PwBD (PH)/ TSP/ Saharia categories, In-service candidates, Ex-servicemen, Female candidates, Outstanding Sportspersons, etc. shall be as per relevant Regulations.

Schedule of filling-up application forms as well as detailed advertisements describing terms & conditions, eligibility criteria viz. age limit, requisite educational qualifications, relaxations, pay scale, instructions for submission of online application form, selection procedure, etc. will be uploaded in the second fortnight of July, 2026 on the following official websites:-

https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in **https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvun**
https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn **https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl**
https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl **https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl**

Link for filling-up online applications will also be made available on above websites in the second fortnight of **July, 2026.** Only online applications uploaded through these official websites shall be accepted.

Candidates are advised to remain in constant touch with the above websites of Vidyut Nigams, as all updates related with this recruitment process including application schedule, examination dates, instructions, guidelines, corrigendums/ modifications, recruitment-related information/ notifications, etc. shall be notified on these websites only. **RVUN/PR – 4415**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/5595 **Chief Personnel Officer**

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
No-16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan Miller's tank bed road, Vasanth Nagar Bangalore-560052. Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEE REIMBURSEMENT SCHOLARSHIP 2026-27

Online Applications are invited for eligible students from minority communities of Karnataka State who are pursuing PUC, Diploma, Graduates, Post Graduates, Technical & Professional Courses and to reimburse fees up to a limit of ₹5.00 lakh for students admitted to professional and technical courses through KEA for the year 2026-27

For Online application visit the following websites:

https://ssp.postmatric.karnataka.gov.in/ (State Scholarship Portal)
https://dom.karnataka.gov.in (Directorate of Minorities - GOK)

Start Date for Applying Fresh Application: **22.06.2026**
Last Date to apply : **30.09.2026**

Eligibility Conditions:

1. The student must belong to minority communities (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikhs and Parsi)
2. The student must be a resident of Karnataka.
3. The student must have scored at least 50% marks in the previous semester/year final exam.
4. Total family income should not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakhs for Post-Matric (Fee Reimbursement) & 2.5 lakhs for Merit-Cum-Means (Fee Reimbursement)
5. Aadhar seeding and NPCI mapping to bank account is mandatory to avail the scholarship.
6. Eligibility conditions for Fee Reimbursement scheme is subject to the Government orders and Guidelines issued by the government from time to time.

For further details, Instructions and procedures please visit Directorate of Minorities website **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** For assistance contact nearest Minority Information Centres (MIC) or contact District Minority Welfare Department

Date: 23.06.2026
Place : Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1328/NR/2026-27

Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU
West Block No. 1, Wing No. V, R.K. Puram, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notification of "2-Bromo-4-Methylpropiophenone" as a CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE under NDPS Act, 1985

1. The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, vide Notification S.O. 1259(E) dated 11.03.2026, has notified **2-Bromo-4-Methylpropiophenone (CAS No. 1451-82-7)** as a controlled substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Regulation of Controlled Substances) Order, 2013, due to its increasing use in manufacturer of mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), a psychotropic substance.

2. All persons and entities engaged in the manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, storage, consumption, import or export or in offering 2-Bromo-4-Methylpropiophenone for sale or distribution, or in mediating its sale or purchase, including through any website, social media platform or other electronic means, are required to obtain registration number in **Form A** from the jurisdictional Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, in accordance with the NDPS (RCS) Order, 2013. All such firms/ entities are requested to submit registration applications in **Form B** to the concerned NCB Zonal Unit well in advance, i.e., **on or before Aug 7, 2026**, so that the registration number is issued by NCB within the statutory period of 180 days from March 11, 2026.

3. All manufacturers, traders, distributors, importers, exporters, consumers, users, and any other persons holding stocks of 2-Bromo-4-Methylpropiophenone are also requested to furnish details of the stock held as of **Jun 30, 2026**, to the jurisdictional Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, **on or before Jul 10, 2026**, in **Form X**.

4. **Any person or entity dealing with the substance in contravention of the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, after Sep 7, 2026, shall render himself/ itself liable for penal action under Section 25A of the NDPS Act, 1985.**

5. Detailed procedures, prescribed Forms, and jurisdictions of NCB Zonal Units are available on the NCB Precursors Portal.

URL: **https://precursorsncb.gov.in/**

CBC 19126/11/0039/2627

Reserve Bank of India
Foreign Exchange Department
Bengaluru

In exercise of powers conferred on it under section 10 (3) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, the Reserve Bank of India, has revoked the Full Fledged Money Changers (FFMC) license of the following Company on account of expiry of license:

Sl. No	Name and Registered Office Address	License Number	Issued on	Cancellation Date
1.	M/s Vibrant Forex Pvt. Ltd. G-7, Blue Cross Chambers Infantry Road Bengaluru 560001	BLR-FFMC-0267-2023	May 30, 2025	June 11, 2026

Consequent to the revocation, the FFMC shall not undertake or transact money changing activities as specified in the Master Direction on Money Changing Activities dated January 01, 2016, updated from time to time, and available on the RBI website (https://www.rbi.org.in).

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
विदेशी मुद्रा विभाग, बेंगलुरु

विदेशी मुद्रा प्रबंध अधिनियम, 1999 की धारा 10(3) के तहत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने निम्नलिखित कंपनी के संपूर्ण मुद्रा परिवर्तक (एफएफएमसी) लाइसेंस को लाइसेंस की वैधता समाप्त होने के कारण रद्द कर दिया है:

क्र.	नाम और पंजीकृत कार्यालय का पता	लाइसेंस संख्या	जारी करने तिथि	रद्द आदेश की तिथि
1	मेसर्स वाइब्रेंट फॉरेक्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड जी-7, ब्लू क्रॉस चैम्बर्स इन्फैंट्री रोड बेंगलुरु 560001	बीएलआर-एफएफएमसी 0267-2023	30 मई 2025	11 जून 2026

मुद्रा परिवर्तन गतिविधियों पर दिनांक 1 जनवरी 2016 के मास्टर निदेशों, जिसे समय-समय पर अद्यतन किया गया है और जो आरबीआई की वेबसाइट (https://www.rbi.org.in) पर उपलब्ध है, के अनुसार रद्दीकरण के परिणामस्वरूप, उपरोक्त एफएफएमसी, मुद्रा परिवर्तन संबंधी लेनदेन या गतिविधियों को नहीं करेगा।

MAHARASHTRA NATURAL GAS LTD. (MNGL)

(A Joint Venture of GAIL & BPCL) CIN : U11102PN2006PLC021839
Pride Purple Coronet, 2nd Floor, Above Bata Showroom, Baner Road, Baner, Pune – 411045 (Maharashtra)

NOTICE FOR HIRING OF CONTRACTORS FOR CGD PROJECT

Maharashtra Natural Gas Limited, Pune invites bids from contractors/agencies through on the spot Walk-In Selection process for execution of DPNG LMC/GI Works in Pune. The Walk-In Selection Process shall be conducted for:

Sl. No.	Geographical Area	Timeline for submission of bid
1	Pune	From 25.06.2026 to 24.07.2026 (10:00 AM to 5:30 PM)

Interested bidders may submit relevant supporting documents, including Work Experience Certificates, GST Registration, PAN, PF/ESI Registration (wherever applicable), and details of available manpower and equipment.

The bidder shall submit a copy of at least one work order, awarded during the last seven (7) years, as proof of experience in GAIL / BPCL Group companies / any other companies for

(i) carrying out of jobs of LMC in CGD **OR**
(ii) carrying out of pipeline jobs in Gas/CNG station/CGS/process plant/SV stations/Hydrocarbons/ water/sewage/drainage/firefighting system/cryogenic/in any other utility sector **OR**
(iii) construction/maintenance of residential/commercial/institutional/industrial buildings involving plumbing jobs **OR**
(iv) laying underground ducts/power cables/telecommunication cables/fiber optic cables (OFC)/ laying of any cable.

Detailed Terms & Conditions shall be available at following link: www.mngl.in.
Contact person : Mr. Balakrishna Thatikonda, Email : balakrishna.thatikonda@mngl.in, Phone No.: 020-25611157 / 7718865953
Note : Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be published only on the above website. Hence, you are requested to visit the website regularly.

Visvesvaraya Technological University

"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi –590 018, Karnataka State

Ref. NoVTU/BGM/RE/2026-27 /IFT No.37/1361, Date: 23-06-2026

Tender Notification

Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender is invited in duplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, **"Jnana Sangama"**, Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of Replacement of roof sheet to Auditorium roof and other maintenance works at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi, amounting to **Rs.97,45,747/-** (Excluding GST)3rd Call & 2)Revonation and interior works to office of the Registrar at 1st floor Administrative building VTU, **"Jnana Sangama"**, Belagavi amount **Rs.42,37,079/-** (Excluding GST) Other details log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **24-06-2026.**

DIPR/Belagavi/489/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

Sd/- Registrar, VTU, Belagavi

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
O/o State Transport Commissioner, Punjab

NOTICE FOR MARKET CONSULTATION

The O/o State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, SCO 177-178, Sector-17C, Chandigarh - 160017 invites interested manufacturers, suppliers, technology providers, smart card vendors, and other eligible stakeholders to provide their suggestions/comments on the proposed **"Rate Contract for Finalization of Rates and Empanelment of Service Providers for the Supply of RC Cards to Motor Vehicle Dealers Across Punjab for a 5-year Period."** on or before 26th June 2026, 10:00 AM.

For further details and communication, stakeholders may check the Department website https://punjabtransport.org/Tenders.aspx

Sd/-
State Transport Commissioner Punjab

DPR/Pb.:1043/12/2026-27/12681

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer PHED, Region - Kota.

Phone : 0744-2504614 Fax : 0744-02501551 Email :ACE.KOT.PHED@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN
No. ACE/PH/KR/Ar-II/2026-27/1613 Dated 15/06/2026

CORRIGENDUM NO. 01

Following corrigendum is issued to the NIT no. 02/2026-27 of this office for the "Work of Augmentation of Water Supply Scheme for Ramganjmandi Town & Kudayla RIICO from Takali Dam Under CM Budget Announcemt 2025-26 including 05 years O&M after 01 year of Defect Liability Period." Estimated cost Rs. 7052.11 Lakh.:-

S.No.	Reference	Existing Provision	Amended Provision
1	Last date & time for Online Submission of Bid Document	15/06/2026 06:00 PM	30/06/2026 06:00 PM
2	Last date & time for physical Submission of Bid Security and other mandatory Documents	16/06/2026, 01:00 PM	01/07/2026, 01:00 PM
3	Date of online opening of Technical Bids	16/06/2026, 03:00 PM	01/07/2026, 03:00 PM

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
(Deepak Kumar Jha)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region - Kota

DIPR/C/10833/2026

JAIPUR METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED

1st Floor, Administrative Building Wing - A, Metro Depot, Bhrigu Path, Mansarovar, Jaipur – 302020
CIN: U60221RJ2010SGC030630, Tel: No. 0141- 2822780/Fax No.0141-2822781
Website: transport.rajasthan.gov.in/jmrc, Email: dp@jaipurmetrorail.in

No. :- F7(C-505)/JMRC/Project/Phase-1C & 1D/Track Estimate/2024 Date :- 17/06/2026

Notice Inviting Tender

Online National Competitive Bids for work "Contract NCB No. JP/EW/1C&1D/JFT-01: "Name of Work: "Installation, Testing & commissioning of Ballastless track of standard gauge including supply of 1080 HH rails, Fastening System, Turnouts, Scissor Cross Over, Check rails, MSS & Others for Jaipur Metro Rail Project Phase 1C (Badi Chaupar dead end Ch. 10383.123 m to Transport Nagar dead end Ch. 14231.304 m) & Phase 1D (Mansarovar dead end Ch. 1243.930 m to Ajmer Road chauraha dead end Ch. 2595.930 m) at Jaipur, Rajasthan, India" are invited from interested Indian National bidders upto 18:00 Hrs on 28.07.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state; and **https://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/jmrc** departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is INR 78.46 Crores inclusive of all taxes. **(Contract No: NCB No. JP/EW/1C&1D/JFT-01) UBN No. JMR2627WLOB00027**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/5594

CMD, JMRC

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr.CDO. Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division, acting through the President of India invites an open tender, through e-tendering in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mentioned below. Eligible tenderers are requested to apply for the same through online only in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mentioned below. No offline tender will be accepted. Please read the tender document uploaded in the document section for details. **Sl.No.-1. Tender Notice No.: C-SRC-LAU-dt-220626. Name of the work:** Maintenance of mechanized laundry machines & equipment at Coaching Depot, Santragachi and Operations of laundry machines for washing and packaging of linens for 03 years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 33,23,17,094.23 (Including GST). **EMD:** ₹ 18,11,600. **Closing date of tender:** 20.07.2026 at 11.30 hrs. **Cost of tender Document:** ₹ 10,000. **Sl.No.-2. Tender Notice No.: C-SHM-LAUN-dt- 220626. Name of the work:** Shalimar: Setting up of mechanized departmental laundry. **Tender Value:** ₹ 18,74,82,499.46 (Including GST). **EMD:** ₹ 37,49,700. **Closing date of tender:** 22.07.2026 at 11.30 hrs. **Cost of tender Document:** Nil. **(PR-376)**

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society

(An Organisation of Govt. of Karnataka)
No. 8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052

No:KREIS/EE-3/Tender-5/2026-27 **Date:24.06.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for Construction of compound wall, STP, Drain and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 827,786/Call-2 and 517)** through e-Portal vide website:http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 24.06.2026. The last date for receipt of tender is 08.07.2026. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-3, KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1339/CCL/2026-27

25001/502/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA

Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

Letter No. 1956 Date: 23.06.2026

OFFICE ORDER

Cancellation of 07 (Seven) Numbers of PMGSY Packages under Bid Identification No. NCB-06/RWCRGDA / 2026-27.

The following 07 (Seven) Numbers of PMGSY Packages are hereby cancelled under Bid Identification No. NCB-06 /RWCRGDA/2026-27 as found **Non-Responsive Packages during Opening of Technical Bids.**

Sl No	Package No	Name of the Work	Reason of Cancellation
1	OR-27-567	L072-Guakhal to Muliguda	As found Non-Responsive during Opening of Technical Bid.
2	OR-27-570	L097-PWD Road to Hatikhal via Diminiguda	
3	OR-27-594	L177-RD Road to Iswarguda	
4	OR-27-601	L175-PWD Road to Koreiguda	
5	OR-27-608	L021-RD Road to Adipadara	
6	OR-27-631	L112-RD Road to Lakikai	
7	OR-27-651	L138-RD Road to Talasing	

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Rayagada

OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0022

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT

PIU KAU, Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy, Thrissur - 680651
Phone: 9037 824 052

TENDER NOTICE

The Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization Project (KERA), a Government of Kerala initiative, invites offline quotations on 20-06-2026 for the below tenders with deadlines.

RFQ Title	Last date for quotation submission
Supply of Precision Balance and Digital Balance	08-07-2026 at 02.30 PM
Supply of Handheld GPS devices	08-07-2026 at 02.30 PM
Supply of pH Meter, ORP Meter and pH/EC Meter	08-07-2026 at 03.00 PM
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Flame photometer and UV-VIS Double Beam Spectrophotometer	09-07-2026 at 02.00 PM
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Various Laboratory Equipment for Sample Preparation and Analysis	09-07-2026 at 02.30 PM

For queries, email: **piukau@kera.kerala.gov.in**. For more details visit: **https://kera.kerala.gov.in/notifications.**

Sd/- Technical Specialist (Agronomy), PIU KAU, KERA

25001/501/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA

Email ID- ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

Letter No. 1938 Date : 22.06.2026

OFFICE ORDER

Cancellation of 35 (Thirty Five) Numbers of PMGSY Packages under Bid Identification No. NCB - 05 / RWCRGDA / 2026-27.

The following 35 (Thirty Five) Numbers of PMGSY Packages are hereby cancelled under Bid Identification No. NCB-05 /RWCRGDA/2026-27 as found **Non-Responsive of 28 Packages during Opening of Technical Bids & due to 1st Time Single Tender for 07 Packages.**

Sl. No.	Package No	Name of the Work	Reason of Cancellation
1	OR-27-681	L027-PWD road to Minahola	As found Non-Responsive during Opening of Technical Bid.
2	OR-27-682	L139-RD Road to Retilipadar	
3	OR-27-692	L025-R.D. Road to Jaganathpur	
4	OR-27-705	L104-R.D. Road (PMGSY) to Kamthana	
5	OR-27-716	L098-R.D. Road to Tadiguda	
6	OR-27-720	L099-PWD Road to Kotlang	
7	OR-27-741	L316-PWD road to Talakaliapada(Kaliapada)	
8	OR-27-742	L294-RD Road to Kuguput	
9	OR-27-751	L048-PS Road To Kotraguda via-Putjodi	
10	OR-27-754	L307-PWD Road to Pondakapadar via Gulumijhola	
11	OR-27-766	L308-PWD Road to Goudapada to Jodipai	
12	OR-27-779	L303-PS Road to Maskakana	
13	OR-27-783	L183-PWD Road To Bitarsunger	
14	OR-27-785	L045-R.D. Road to Kansariguda	
15	OR-27-796	L180-PS Road to Kashadar	
16	OR-27-800	L054-PS Road to Dhuturapas	
17	OR-27-804	L046-R.D. Road Katalidakhilnarangajodi	
18	OR-27-807	L041-RD road to Dumerkana	
19	OR-27-808	L052-PS Road to Sudingaguda	
20	OR-27-812	L295-RD road to Kutakhai	
21	OR-27-814	L049-PS Road to Kukudisemi	
22	OR-27-826	L058-PS Road to Mandalpitesu	
23	OR-27-845	L029-R.D. Road to Dangini	
24	OR-27-863	L116-Landubadi to Sargibari	
25	OR-27-865	L207-PWD to Kebedatulla	
26	OR-27-870	L176-PS (Burujuguda) to Khalaguda	
27	OR-27-874	L093-PWD Road to Kandaguda- Bandhuguda	
28	OR-27-915	L035-Udaguda to Huluki	
29	OR-27-737	L290-PS Road To Tujer	Due to 1st Time Single Tender
30	OR-27-746	L056-PWD Road To Kantamal koral	
31	OR-27-793	L309-PS Road to Sinderpadar under PMGSY-IV (Batch-I) 2025-26	
32	OR-27-806	L287-PWD (Kucheipadar) Road to Bhitarguma	
33	OR-27-859	L141-PWD Road to Maligam	
34	OR-27-871	L173-PWD Road to Kondharanipinda	
35	OR-27-911	L085-R.D. Road to Eskapalem	

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
RW Circle, Rayagada

OIPR - 25001/25196/1/26-27/0021

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
ANGADI

ELCOT Angadi

9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. https://elcotangadi.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 1234 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-0010

ELCOT Angadi invites "Rate Contract Tender for empanelment of vendors for supply, installation and commissioning of Laptops, Desktops, Tablets and accessories, through ELCOT Angadi e-Commerce portal". For complete details, please visit www.tntenders.gov.in. Pre-bid meeting: **07.07.2026, 11:00 AM** at ELCOT Nandanam Office. Last date for submission of e-bids: **28.07.2026, 03:00 PM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in.**

DIPR/2144/Tender/2026

General Manager (Procurement)

25001/508/2627

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଅମ୍ବାପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)

(E-Mail : serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. : 0680-2404287)

E-Mail / E-despatch

No. e-tender // 4410 // RWC// BAM // Dated. 23.06.2026

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/05-2026-27/BPR

1) The partial modification of Building works under Block Level Stadium vide above identification has been made as follows.

1	Date of availability of tender	::	**15.07.2026 to 29.07.2026 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 17.06.2026 to 01.07.2026 upto 5.30 PM.
2	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	::	**27.07.2026 at 5.30 PM** instead of 29.06.2026 at 5.30 PM
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	::	**30.07.2026 at 11.00 AM** instead of 02.07.2026 at 11.00 AM
4	Date of opening of Financial Bid	::	**Will be intimated later on.**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur

OIPR - 25001/25071/1/26-27/0015

4001/178/2627

idco | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation

Invitation for Bids

IDCO-MIS-MISE-0032-2026 18827 Date: 23/06/2026

Providing, switching and maintaining the email IDs of IDCO free G-Suit Legacy edition to Google workspace Business Starter subscription for 300 users License. The table below is indicating the cost of Tender Paper and EMD for the work. The interested bidders can download the documents from IDCO website (**www.idco.in**) from date: **24.06.2026** to date: **07.07.2026** up to 5.00 PM. Response to the bid should be sent by Registered Post/ Speed Post only so as to reach the General Manager (MIS), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022 on or before date: **07.07.2026 up to 5.00 PM**

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Paper (Rs.)	Estimated Amount (Rs.)	Date of Opening
1	Providing, Switching and maintaining the email IDs of IDCO from free G-Suite Legacy edition to Google Workspace Business Starter subscription for 300 users license	7,080.00	11,70,000.00 (Excluding GST)	**08.07.2026** at 11.00 AM

For details please contact to on **+91-8480705672** during office hours. For further assistance, please email to **mis@idco.in**

Sd/-
General Manager (MIS)

OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0061

32001/447/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, SOUTHERN INVESTIGATION CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

E-mail wrsesinvbam@rediffmail.com

No. 835 Date : 23.06.2026

1st Corrigendum
to
Bid Identification No. ACESICB-01(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-01(02)/2026-27 dtd.12.06.2026

The date and time of availability of bid document / last date of availability of tender / date of seeking clarification / date of opening tender for all the works invited by this office vide Bid Identification No. ACESICB-01(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-01(02)/2026-27 dtd.12.06.2026 are hereby modified as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Date & Time of availability of Bid Document in the portal	Last date /Time of receipt of Bids in the portal	Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date of Technical Bid Opening
1	2	3	4	5	6
Additional Chief Engineer, Southern Investigation Circle, Berhampur	ACESICB-01(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-01(02)/2026-27	30.06.2026 at11.30AM to 15.07.2026 upto 17.00PM	15.07.2026 upto 17.00PM	30.06.2026 at 11.30AM to 13.07.2026 upto 17.00PM	17.07.2026 at 11.00 AM

All other terms & condition of the Bid Documents will remain unchanged.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in said website.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer,
Southern Investigation Circle, Berhampur.

OIPR-32001/32571/1/26-27/0002

25001/506/2627

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଅମ୍ବାପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

(At/Po-Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)

(E-Mail :- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. :- 0680-2404287)

E-Mail/E-despatch

No. e-tender // 4416 // RWC// BAM // Dated : 23.06.2026

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/07-2026-27/BPR

1) The partial modification of Road works under **MUKHYA MANTRI SADAK YOJANA (MMSY) for the year 2026-27** vide above identification has been made as follows.

1	Date of availability of tender	:	**23.07.2026 to 06.08.2026 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 20.06.2026 to 04.07.2026 upto 5.30 PM.
2	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**04.08.2026 at 5.30 PM** instead of 02.07.2026 at 5.30 PM
3	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	:	**07.08.2026 at 11.00 AM** instead of 06.07.2026 at 11.00 AM
4	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on.**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur

OIPR-25001/25071/1/26-27/0014

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समाधान प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंजिल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुड़गाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK –6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public :ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/547 Date: 17/06/2026

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of 070 companies in the **Karnataka** state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S.no.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC3890585	U92490KA2019PTC124153	YNOTTHIS EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC3540194	U62099KA2024PTC184173	JUKEBOX TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC3890588	U74110KA2019PTC131155	IMMAGNET CREATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC3879700	U85499KA2025PTC197966	PEONY MULTICULTURAL ACADEMY PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC3577372	U72200KA2017PTC106180	SYSTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC3850760	U47591KA2023PTC179833	SIVSEN SELECT STAR DECORS PRIVATE LIMITED
7	AC3822254	U74900KA2015PTC085022	ES AIRCONDITION AND REFRIGERATION PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC3806196	U73200KA2022PTC167825	CARBONSE ENVIRO SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC3807916	U72100KA2025PTC203286	STARUPIVA ENGINEERING PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC3802026	U72900KA2022PTC163080	AISAGA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC3787932	U72900KA2013PTC069468	QUADRISK ADVISORS PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC3759137	U51909KA2010PTC055335	APNI ADA MARKETING PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC3805792	U74909KA2023OPC178199	QUANTUMBOTICS & KINETICPRINTS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC3803828	U47810KA2025PTC203684	TMC WELLNESS PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC3780396	U74999KA2016PTC094171	MELOKI CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC3800683	U47711KA2023OPC179085	RARUS INTERNATIONAL (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AC3790552	U15549KA2021PTC147502	VICTUALS MADHURA PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC3768301	U62090KA2025PTC201480	UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS WARRIORS PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC3739692	U63000KA2022PTC168313	HOOLI ELECTRIC PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AC3718165	U50100KA2021PTC146499	ACUVE VALUE ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC3740131	U17144KA2000PTC027897	MARUTHI GARMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC3703069	U74999KA2022PTC166623	I3CGLOBAL REGHELPS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC3716623	U74999KA2017PTC107804	PURPLE NINJA BRAND CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC3643110	U74999KA2017PTC107580	YODHA INSTITUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC3652983	U74909KA2025FTC209590	EVINOVA HEALTH TECH INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC3657792	U47593KA2025PTC207231	CASHMARTINDIA TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AC3612108	U62011KA2023PTC181004	ZAREKTRONIX TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AC3615943	U72900KA2021PTC146902	ESSQUBE FINTECH PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AC3573080	U21009KA2025PTC211002	SIVISHA INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AC3561987	U31909KA2017FTC106576	MOBILE CLIMATE CONTROL THERMAL SYSTEMS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AC3573059	U18101KA2005PTC035387	SABIHA APPARELS PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AC3660911	U73100KA2010PTC055999	COGNIREL TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AC3541327	U72900KA2022PTC163619	PAYROCKET TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AC3522386	U74900KA2012PTC065890	RIGHT FOODS E-MARKETING PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AC3605323	U74999KA2019PTC122813	AAKAI NRI SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AC3473697	U72900KA2019PTC130417	GATEWARE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AC3419104	U70200KA2023PTC173437	ARLIGA MILLENIA BUSINESS PARKS PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AC3413538	U70200KA2023PTC177244	ARLIGA AZURE BUSINESS PARKS PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AC3378782	U74900KA2010PTC054877	MONOCLE CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AC3355075	U21000KA2011PTC059673	HYGIYA PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AC3284833	U74999KA2022PTC160289	AJSING SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AC3278331	U66120KA2023PTC172888	QUANTASCEND CAPITAL ADVISORY PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AC3288502	U15540KA2021FTC153936	DEEGEE'S BREWERIES PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AC3274011	U46101KA2025PTC200013	VK AGRO AND HERBALS PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AC3536327	U20237KA2025PTC210340	KEESHA AURA PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AC3425271	U62013KA2024PTC183589	DONGEV INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AC3839774	U23209KA2021PTC146693	JAFCO OIL PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AC3706557	U72501KA2020PTC135654	TINIYO PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AC3808207	U74999KA2016PTC097753	BRIGHTER RESOURCE CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AC3469175	U70109KA2019PTC123791	OZONE RESIDENCES PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AC3803322	U17099KA2025PTC211563	KRAFTSETU PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AC3783328	U62099KA2025PTC202706	BURPY LABS PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AC3761505	U74140KA2005PTC035410	KARMIC CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AC3789560	U82200KA2024OPC195311	AVIREK GLOBAL SOLUTIONS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AC3768701	U79110KA2025PTC203411	MIRANOVA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
56	AC3767914	U74900KA2016OPC085367	GLIMS DECOR OPC PRIVATE LIMITED
57	AC3751361	U45309KA2021PTC155448	MONTE VISO VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED
58	AC3763270	U40104KA2015PTC081527	NISA RENEW ENERGY PRIVATE LIMITED
59	AC3729787	U26515KA2023PTC172419	HUBTRIC PRIVATE LIMITED
60	AC3734895	U72200KA2010PTC055306	LAB ANEK TECHNOVATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
61	AC3820338	U31909KA1998PTC024331	MERA CORPORATE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
62	AC3691203	U45209KA2022PTC157734	GOLLA REALTY PRIVATE LIMITED
63	AC3683152	U72900KA2015PTC084649	VYUSTI SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
64	AC3670748	U47912KA2024PTC190363	MECHLIFY TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
65	AC3648109	U28132KA2024PTC183926	OTTERSTATTER VALVES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
66	AC3613305	U36109KA2016PTC094917	GREEN GARDENIA PRIVATE LIMITED
67	AC3587311	U96090KA2024PTC189386	CURIOSTUFF TECHLAB PRIVATE LIMITED
68	AC3585100	U74999KA2015PTC078435	INSTA WASH PRIVATE LIMITED
69	AC3588715	U65990KA1990PTC011448	PREPARA INVESTMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED
70	AC3520587	U72900KA2019FTC123623	MXG TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/ are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/ their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/ strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0240/2627

12001/53/2627

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 22
Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921
E-mail: ophwc.od@od.gov.in, Website: www.ophwc.com

e-procurement notice No.- 07/OPHWC/2026-27

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The **Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)**, Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the works as detailed below:

1	Nature of work	**Building works**
2	No. of Works	**07 Nos.**
3	Value of Tender	**Rs. 72.25 Lakh to Rs. 2824.27 Lakh**
4	Class of Contractor	**'B' Class to 'Super' Class**
5	Cost of Bid document (To be paid online)	**Rs. 11,800.00**
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	**Dt. 25.06.2026 to Dt. 10.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M**
7	Last date /time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal	**Dt. 10.07.2026 up to 5.00 P.M**
8	Date of Opening Bid	**Dt. 13.07.2026 at 10.30 A.M**
9	Date of Technical Presentation (among qualified bidders only)	**Date & Time will be notified after opening of the Technical Bid.**
10	* The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can also be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall not be published in Newspaper and can only be seen in the said website. * The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and terminate the tender process without assigning any reason thereof.	

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
(OSPH&WC)

N.B. - The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable Under works contract.

OIPR-12001/12025/1/26-27/0007

Empowering entrepreneurs, expanding opportunities

Youth driving UP's MSME revolution

Uttar Pradesh is rapidly establishing itself as a major MSME hub, driven by proactive government initiatives aimed at fostering entrepreneurship, self-employment and economic growth. The Chief Minister Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan, launched in 2024-25, seeks to empower educated and skilled youth by providing support for setting up new micro-enterprises. The scheme has already benefited 1,47,312 young entrepreneurs, leading to the creation of employment opportunities for more than 4,51,775 people across the state. Alongside this, the Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana has enabled 37,280 youth to establish industrial and service sector units. Under the programme, ₹940.86 crore has been disbursed as margin money assistance, generating employment for approximately 2,98,240 people. These initiatives are strengthening the MSME ecosystem, promoting inclusive growth and contributing significantly to Uttar Pradesh's economic development.

PICS: DIPR, UP GOVT

BUILDING BUSINESSES, CREATING JOBS: UTTAR PRADESH'S MSME MOMENTUM

- MSME parks of 10 to 50 acres are being developed
- Under the MSME Act 2020, new units are exempted from inspections by various departments for 1000 days
- Nivesh Mitra Portal (Single Window Clearance) provides online, time-bound approvals, licenses, and NOCs, making enterprise setup transparent and easy
- In the MSME sector, employment provided to more than 3.11 crore people
- Under the Chief Minister Youth Self-Employment Scheme, till now more than 38,000 beneficiaries benefited, and more than ₹1,09,710 lakh margin money distributed
- In the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, ₹1,105.49 crore margin money distributed to 32,936 beneficiaries. Employment provided to 2,63,488 persons
- Under the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme, more than 49.86 lakh tablets/smartphones distributed. Target to benefit 2 crore youths
- Under the Chief Minister Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, registration and training of more than 1 lakh youths in industries and establishments
- In the ITI and Skill Development Mission, more than 25,80,000 youths trained in various trades. More than 10.20 lakh youths provided employment
- Training of students in new emerging sectors like Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Computing (Robotics) etc., in accordance with Industry 4.0
- 24 active start-ups; 17 incubated under Start-in-UP; TBI hub approved by MSME and Start-in-UP
- More than 23% growth in the MSME sector between December 2024 and December 2025
- Since 2017-18, 32,936 entrepreneurs have benefited, with ₹1,105.49 crore distributed as margin money, creating employment for 2,63,488 people
- So far, 20,396 entrepreneurs benefited, with ₹903.63 crore distributed, generating employment for 3,26,473 people
- Under the Skill Development and Toolkit Scheme, training and toolkits are provided to artisans and entrepreneurs. So far, 1,46,298 individuals covered
- Under ODOP Common Facility Centre (CFC) Promotion Scheme, CFCs are being established to provide modern facilities such as design, quality improvement, research, packaging, and marketing. 30 CFC projects in 24 districts have received final approval
- Launched in 2019 to support traditional artisans such as carpenters, tailors, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, sweet-makers, weavers, barbers, and others, so far, 4,20,540 individuals have been trained and provided with modern toolkits under Vishwakarma Shram Samman Scheme. For SC/ST communities, around 54,636 individuals have been trained with practical, demand-based skills. Likewise, For OBC communities, 17,848 individuals have been trained
- Exports Growth: ₹86,000 crore in 2016-17 to ₹1.86 lakh crore in 2024-25; ₹1.31 lakh crore exports till November 2025-26; IT/ITES exports grew from ₹15,000 crore (2015) to over ₹82,000 crore (2024-25); 77 products have received GI tags, with 152 more in progress; Expo Marts are established in Lucknow and Greater Noida, and a Bhadohi Carpet Bazaar (Expo Mart) in Bhadohi

A thought for today

The sound of a kiss is not so loud as that of a cannon, but its echo lasts a great deal longer

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, SR

Landing It Rich

Be it Trump, Indian bureaucrats, or ministers, using privileged info for private gain is unethical, even if legal

Trump bought shares of a major computer maker in Feb. In May, his govt gave the company a $10bn defence contract, making its share price jump. Within weeks, Trump's stake had more than doubled in value. Would you consider his investment aboveboard? While it might be defensible legally, does it pass on ethics? That's also the question at the heart of the Ujjain controversy, involving MP's CM Mohan Yadav, his family, and their real estate firms.

It's been alleged that they bought 137 plots – a total area of 168 acres – in locations that were later marked for infra projects. This change of land use raised property value sharply, in what might be called a windfall for the new owners. Legal? Perhaps. But ethical? Be it business, politics or sport, the rules of fair play have no room for 'insider trading' – exploiting privileged information for gain. In horse racing, for example, if the crowd favourite is lame, and its owner and trainer put their money on the second-best horse, is it a game of chance anymore?

When it comes to land for urbanisation, the scope for price rigging is immense, because price is seldom a function of the land's own attributes. It varies with where you drop a highway, or a business park, or a university. Just last month, a newspaper exposed another possible case of bureaucratic connivance in MP. It found that 50-odd people, including IAS and IPS officers from Delhi, Haryana, Telangana, Maharashtra, etc, bought land in Guradi Ghat village, *on the same day* in 2022. Sixteen months later, govt approved a highway 500m away from this site, and then the purpose of the land was changed from agricultural to residential. The value of the land rose from ₹81.7/sq ft to ₹557/sq ft within two years, and is now said to be close to ₹3,000/sq ft.

Such cases happen in every state that's urbanising rapidly, and politicians and bureaucrats – because they are the planners and decision-makers – have all the inside information to buy the most lucrative plots cheaply, before plans are published. If all land were equal, they would have no incentive to do so, but as we said, it's their decisions – where schools, parks, markets, airports and garbage dumps will be placed – that create a premium. Conflict of interest is obvious. Such actions are indefensible ethically.

Sound Sense Of Silence

How much loss of hearing will it take for India to wake up to its noise? Bring in the town crier

A town crier? In 2026? That was the first question, when Canberra's official town crier won the Guinness Record for world's loudest voice. Joseph McGrail-Bateup bellowed 'NOW' at 122.4dB. Duck. That can cause permanent hearing loss. Louder than Indian traffic (constant 100dB). But, first, what does a town crier even do? McGrail-Bateup is a professional AC cleaner, his town crier position since 2017 is a "part-time role" for Canberra events. His award – membership to a heritage club of Australian Town Criers that preserves "historic & ceremonial roles". Never knock the powerful tug of history-meets-nostalgia.

McGrail-Bateup beat the record of an Irish schoolteacher – no mean task – who had, unsurprisingly, yelled the word 'QUIET', at 121.7dB, in 1994. Spare a thought for her class, for all those whose eardrums were all trembling and aquiver, from a young age. The silence in her class is, perhaps, what Guinness Records could start a record for. But that isn't possible. Because, noise is defined, but there's no one definition for silence. While noise is a physical measure, silence is, largely, human experience. Natural sounds (rustling leaves) or unobtrusive sounds, (fan's whirr), aren't considered noise. Listening to birdsong is silence, right? So, measures are much about how the average human ear perceives sound. Say, a waterfall and diesel generator can have similar decibel levels, and yet…

What makes noise a public health crisis in India is that neither policy wonks nor public give a damn about long exposure to human-created din – traffic, construction, festivals, city clatter. Could this be because desi fundas put such a premium on 'silence within'? But, and conversely, exactly for this, given over 6.3cr people in India are hard of hearing, per WHO, it makes sound sense to join the dots. Outside noise is so damaging that the silence within is in perpetual retreat. Maybe we will sit up, and shut up, if an Irish teacher yells QUIET, and a town crier bellows NOW.

Netting netas

Parties are breaking up filmi style. Titles and all

Bachi Karkaria

Now on screens, rebel-blocbusters. The record-breaking Bengali and its Maha copy are live-streaming simultaneously, plots thickening faster than a middle-age waistline. Like all great drama, this 'netanki' too requires a suspension of disbelief. Though, no sign of suspended dissidents. Updated idiom: Deserting rats are sinking the Mamata/Uddhav ship. Like SRK in *Happy New Year*, Maharashtra's Shiv Sena DCM declared last week that this was 'only the trailer. Picture *abhi baaki hai*.' Eknath Shinde hinted that the queue of those wanting to decimate the Thackerays rivals that for a Lalbaugcha Raja darshan during Ganeshotsav or at least the daily one outside Mumbai's two newly anointed *benne dosa* deities. Let's see which film titles are a perfect fit.

We'll start with the current Hollywood blockbuster since money is the alleged lure but power is the politicians' basic *Obsession*, like in the film, their 'one-wish willow'. However, here the horror is being felt by their 'hate-interest', the mother party. Shinde – the OG Shiv Sena breaker – named his current hijack *Operation Tiger*. While Balasaheb's biological heir is desperately crying (*Amcha*) *Tiger Zinda Hai*, his breed is the most poached beast of the Maha political jungle.

erratica

On an IMAX scale, the reigning *Obsession* is that of *Om*-nipotent BJP. It's now driven by the hegemonic ambition of an 'Opposition-*mukt* Bharat'. To that end, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who spearheaded Total Mamata Collapse, handed her 20-MP clout to Nationalist Citizens Party of India. Thus overnight turning this hitherto unheard of, congenitally loser outfit into the biggest partner of NDA, read 'BJP'.

The political suspense thriller genre *per se* is marked by *One Battle After Another*. The current crop, mirroring this Oscar-sweeper, also features those who've been branded as 'illegals'. Or, even *Sinners*. *Backrooms* have been action-packed.

Reflecting *Apun Ka Bollywood*, the ongoing drama could as well be titled *Cocktail 2* (States), and be quite *Toxic* for the shaken mother party. Both rebel groups fancy themselves as *Dhurandhar/Dhurondhor*, without daring to challenge the undisputed No. 1, Bahut Jeeta Party. Will 'partees' remain parted? In politics especially *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna*.

***

Alec Smart said: "Mumbai monsoon arrives bringing relief and woes."

Trump's Smart Iran Exit

It wasn't getting better for POTUS, so he was right to end the war. Plus, Americans have grown tired of US's West Asian conflicts. This has implications for US-Israel ties. Tehran is emboldened, but managing the new regional architecture will require India's involvement

Jon B Alterman

Zbigniew Brzezinski Chair, Center for Strategic & Intnl Studies, Washington DC

"When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing is to stop digging." That's what Trump did last week, after months of promising just how completely US would defeat Iran. Trump was right to end the war, and the terms on which he did so were not getting better. He decided to cut his losses and move on.

Since signing a 14-point agreement with Iran last week that was extremely favourable to the Iranians, most of the analysis has been focused on how little US got after months of predicting an Iranian surrender. Plus, after the first round of negotiations between the two sides in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, there are conflicting accounts about financial incentives for Iran, control over Hormuz, and Israel's military operations in Lebanon. But what is more important, though, is drawing the right lessons from the encounter, understanding their strategic implications, and properly assessing next steps.

Both US and Israel were convinced that dropping something on the order of 20,000 bombs and missiles on Iran, badly outmatching the Iranian military at every turn, and maintaining a largely effective trade blockade would surely result in victory. As we know, it didn't turn out that way.

What the Trump administration and Netanyahu govt got wrong was not appreciating the ability of the Iranian govt to create a cocktail mixing nationalism, ideology, and repression to remain in power. On a broad level, it is hard for any foreign power to seem more patriotic than even a despotic govt. More narrowly, elites in the system saw this as a threat to everything they've held dear for almost a half-century, and to the livelihoods of their children and grandchildren. And fundamentally, govt of Iran has massive repressive power, and it showed in Jan it was willing to use it. That power did not diminish in the face of the US and Israeli assault.

There is a larger lesson here, and arguably one that should have been learned in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. There, US fought wars for decades against robust insurgencies. The common thread in all of these conflicts was the evidence that military tools are often poor instruments to change politics. What US and Israel were really hoping for was provoking political change. In fact, rather than demonstrating the Iranian govt's weakness, they ended up proving its resilience. The effect was the opposite of the intended one.

Strategically, Iran has demonstrated its ability to shut down Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a fourth of the world's seaborne oil passes. That knowledge will never go away. Countries that depend on Gulf energy, from Japan to India to Europe, now have to factor Iranian willingness to weaponise that chokepoint into their long-term planning. The Iranian govt has also demonstrated its willingness to inflict pain and absorb punishment, a lesson that the states around Iran will not forget.

Image: AI

For US, after fighting wars in West Asia for 35 years, this is likely to be the last. The American public is turning more sharply away from the region, believing it both irredeemably hostile and hopelessly absorbed in ancient feuds.

The most profound consequence may be a fundamental reordering of the US-Israel relationship. A decades-long partnership that had been growing ever-closer, is now being pulled apart by Americans on all sides of the political spectrum. Even apolitical Americans have felt that the joint war has been extremely costly to them, for no benefit at all. If a new Israeli prime minister is elected in the fall, that may slow Israel's decline among the American public. But it is hard to see a way that the decline will be reversed any time soon.

That could, in turn, shape how an Israel less protected by US embraces friends and seeks to punish adversaries around the world. Israel could lean, even more heavily, into its newer relationships with countries like India, and it could seek to push them more to protect Israeli interests.

Perhaps the most important question of all is what to do now. The Iranian leadership is feeling triumphant, having survived an onslaught by the region's strongest power, and the world's strongest power. Its threat to block Hormuz once again, in response to Israeli actions in Lebanon, is a signal that it is unbowed.

The answer is not more force. It is a broad international coalition that makes Iranian restraint worth practicing, and Iranian provocation genuinely costly. The 2015 nuclear deal showed this was achievable. It brought in China and Russia, alongside the Western powers. Rebuilding that architecture isn't possible right now, but having something similar is the only path that doesn't lead back to war.

India has an indispensable role to play. No major power has India's combination of relationships – with Iran, with Gulf states, with Israel, and with US. India has suffered the costs of this war without having shaped its course. That should change. As a major trading partner of Iran, and as a major beneficiary of Gulf security, India could demonstrate its willingness to engage more deeply with Iran, but to do so conditionally. India's role as a leader of the Global South, would make this role even more meaningful. The world needs countries like India, not just as stake-holders in stability, but as its architects.

The writer is a global security & geostrategy specialist

Imperialists Did It Once, Superpowers Do It Now

The Raj once used labour law to blunt Indian competition. US's proposed forced-labour tariff on Indian goods is a similar weapon. But today, India can contest such blatantly unfair policies

Pranjal Chandra

You wouldn't think the Trump administration has much in common in its treatment of India, with the British colonialists. But it does. It has proposed an additional 12.5% tariff on Indian goods, citing India's failure to legally prohibit the imports made with forced labour. India should recognise the argument behind the tariff, because it has heard this before, almost word for word.

US's move follows an investigation by Washington in March, into the failure of many countries to enforce a prohibition on goods made with forced labour. US Trade Representative (USTR) notes that India is one of 54 countries that haven't imposed a legal prohibition on the import of goods made wholly or partly with forced labour. US deems this an "unreasonable" failure and a burden on American commerce, as producers in countries without such bans "derive an unfair cost advantage because they do not have to undertake due diligence".

- While India doesn't have an express prohibition on the import of goods made with forced labour, it has long recognised and fought the anathema. Indeed, it outlawed forced labour long before Washington raised the question. Article 23 of our Constitution expressly prohibits bonded labour.

Moreover, India enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act way back in 1976. It has also ratified both core ILO agreements on forced labour (Convention #29 and Convention #105), and has consistently met its international commitment to ILO to eliminate forced labour.

- Second, US may have exaggerated India's dependence on imports of goods produced with forced labour. One of USTR's prime examples is Chinese cotton, 93% of which is grown in Xinjiang, a region tied to forced labour. However, India is the world's largest cotton producer, spins most of its cotton, and imports twice as much cotton from US as from China. Cotton imports from China make up less than 10% of India's imports, and the hammer of tariffs is too blunt a tool for the size of the problem.

Now consider the longer history of working-hour laws in India. In late 19th century, competition from Indian mills began to threaten manufacturers in Manchester and Dundee. In response, Manchester's chamber of commerce lobbied British parliament to cap working hours in India, arguing that the conditions of the Indian worker demanded legislation.

The real motive was stated plainly in British parliament by an MP: Leaving Indian mills unrestricted gave "a very unfair advantage" to a rival that might soon undersell Britain "in Manchester itself". This was the real reason the Raj imposed labour restrictions on Indian factories starting in 1881. In 1911, the colonial govt introduced working-hour limits for adult males in Indian textile factories, 60 years before similar legislation was enacted in UK.

Image: AI

Historian Marc Jason Gilbert notes that Indian nationalists recognised labour legislation as a weapon of economic imperialism. For instance, Rao Bahadur RN Mudholkar, a social reformer and freedom fighter, gave a fiery speech in Patna, at the 12th session of Indian National Congress, against the 1911 law, as coming "from persons who, not to mince words, are our rivals in manufacture and in trade".

A century ago, Britain wrote India's labour laws to blunt its competition. US is reaching for the same tool.

The cost of complying with Washington's demands would be considerable for Indian manufacturing, and in turn for India's fight against poverty. To run an American-style import ban, Indian firms would have to audit their supply chains for tainted inputs at real expense. For instance, US puts the due diligence burden of its own Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act at the equivalent of a 2.5% tariff on at-risk goods. Layer that cost onto a manufacturing base that runs on thin margins, often under 10%, and the burden is far from trivial.

Compliance with labour rules in India already raises the effective cost of formal labour by around a third. In already poor countries like India, tariffs may worsen labour conditions by increasing informality further. The faster India can uplift its citizens out of poverty, the sooner it can become a partner in furthering the cause of dignified labour.

Americans will also bear the cost. For American consumers, India is the pharmacy: Close to two-fifths of generic drugs dispensed in America are Indian. For American manufacturers, India is a supplier of industrial machinery, electrical machinery, organic chemicals, iron and steel articles, and plastics, which together account for nearly $22bn in imports. A tariff on all these goods does not punish India alone.

The proposed tariff is open for written comment and a hearing through July, and a bilateral trade agreement is already under negotiation. In both forums, India should contest it. India should offer evidence-based cooperation on specific shipments or entities, and keep any domestic reform anchored in Indian law and Indian enforcement priorities.

The writer is with Prosperiti, an organisation advancing economic freedom in India

Calvin & Hobbes

I THINK I SHOULD STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL. I'VE GOT A SORE THROAT, AN EAR ACHE, A STOMACH ACHE, I'M SEEING SPOTS, AND I'M DIZZY.
I'LL CALL THE DOCTOR.
HOLD ON. I THINK IT'S ALL CLEARING UP! YES, I THINK I'M BETTER NOW.
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO HIT THAT MAGIC NUMBER OF APPROPRIATELY VAGUE, MILDLY SERIOUS, BUT NOT QUITE WORRISOME SYMPTOMS.

Sacred*space*

Prejudice of any kind implies that you are identified with the thinking mind. It means you don't see the other human being anymore, but only your own concept of that human being. To reduce the aliveness of another human to a concept is already a form of violence.

Eckhart Tolle

Road To Salvation: One Humanity, Zero Prejudice

Shri Shri Anandmurti

Human life is often compared to a journey of self-discovery, but according to spiritual philosophy, it is much more than that. It is a gradual process of purification through which the individual consciousness rediscovers its original divine nature.

Sadhana, spiritual practice, is an effort to remove the distortions and impurities that obscure the true Self. Just as raw gold must pass through fire to become pure and radiant, we must refine our minds through discipline, self-control, and devotion. The impurities that cloud the mind – such as fear, greed, pride, anger, and attachment – are not part of our essential nature. They arise due to influence of material and psychological forces. Through spiritual practice, these limitations can be transformed and ultimately dissolved.

Creation is a process of descent from the subtle to the crude. Cosmic Consciousness gradually manifests as mind and matter, eventually producing the physical universe. Spiritual evolution, therefore, is the reverse journey. The seeker moves from the gross to subtle, from the physical to mental, and from the mental to spiritual. This inward movement leads towards the realisation of the Supreme Consciousness that lies beyond all limitations of space, time, and individuality.

The Supreme Reality cannot be understood through the senses or even through the ordinary mind. The senses perceive only finite objects, while the mind itself is limited by its conditioning. The Infinite can be realised only through the awakening of the deeper self. As the mind becomes purified and absorbed in the thought of the Supreme, the barriers separating the individual from the Cosmic gradually disappear.

All forms of prejudice – whether based on caste, birth, nationality, or social status – are products of an incomplete understanding of reality. If the same Divine consciousness exists in every being, then no one can be considered inherently superior or inferior.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Human worth is determined not by birth but by character and conduct. A true spiritual person is one who sees the presence of the Divine in all beings and acts accordingly. Such a person rises above divisions and embraces universalism.

Another important message is that service to humanity is itself a form of spiritual practice. Since every individual and every part of creation is an expression of the Supreme Consciousness, serving society becomes equivalent to serving God. Whether one works for the welfare of a village, a district, or humanity, such service acquires spiritual significance when performed with a spirit of universal love.

Knowledge and action are valuable, but they remain incomplete without love for the Supreme. Through sincere devotion, selfless service, and continuous spiritual effort, the individual mind merges into the Cosmic flow, transcending all limitations and suffering.

The message is both simple and profound: salvation is not achieved through rituals, social status, or intellectual arguments. It is attained by purifying the mind, overcoming ego and discrimination, and realising the Divine presence in every being. The path to liberation lies in expanding the self until it embraces the entire universe as one family. In that universal vision, all divisions vanish, and the individual discovers eternal freedom, peace, and oneness with the Infinite.

TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

Wimbledon Investors Cash In With VIP Seats Costing Over £380,000

- Wimbledon debentures, a type of bond guaranteeing a seat on Centre Court for five years from 2026, sold for as much as $510,000 in April, according to Dowgate Capital, the official broker for Wimbledon
- Current prices to attend arguably the world's most prestigious tennis tournament are more than triple the £1,16,000 issue price in April 2024, and almost double the level they were trading at last year

Source: Bloomberg

- For the All England Lawn Tennis Club, which manages Wimbledon, debentures are a vital source of funding, helping pay for maintenance and expansion since they were first sold more than a century ago

No respite for Tata Sons as RBI tightens NBFC-UL norms

Listing Pressure Mounts On Holdco As Threshold Is Retained

Reeba.Zachariah
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India has rebuffed calls to raise the asset threshold for upper-layer NBFCs to Rs 2.5 lakh crore, sticking to Rs 1 lakh crore threshold—a decision that keeps Tata Sons, the holding company of India's largest conglomerate, firmly within its supervisory bracket and subject to listing requirements.

Industry stakeholders had argued that the threshold should be set at Rs 2.5 lakh crore or higher, with complementary objective metrics of profitability and asset quality to better reflect systemic importance. Had the higher bar prevailed, Tata Sons — whose standalone assets stood at Rs 1.75 lakh crore in FY26 — would have fallen outside the upper-layer classification altogether.

The RBI was unmoved. The Rs 1 lakh crore-and-above threshold, it said, has been fixed based on the current profile of the NBFC sector and an analysis of the financial profile of existing upper-layer entities.

Dismissing the argument that asset size alone may not fully capture systemic importance, the RBI said its analysis showed that size remains a "reasonably good proxy" for systemic significance, adding that the Rs 1 lakh threshold better captures NBFCs whose failure could threaten financial stability amid sector growth.

However, it says that the classification will not be automatic and will follow RBI identifying the upper layer NBFCs from the companies that meet this threshold.

The central bank has clarified that compliance requirements for upper-layer NBFCs will be triggered only from the date on which it notifies such a list. Tata Sons was first classified as a UL-NBFC by the RBI in Sept 2022, triggering a listing requirement. The company has since repaid debt and applied to surrender its NBFC registration to avoid listing — an application still under review by the RBI.

The Tata Sons board is divided on the IPO, with Tata Trusts-nominated director Noel Tata opposing a listing, while fellow trust-nominated director Venu Srinivasan is in favour. Tata Trusts is the principal shareholder of Tata Sons.

The RBI also reiterated that the classification trigger will be applied strictly on a standalone audited balance sheet basis, not on consolidated group accounts, reinforcing an entity-level approach to supervision. It further said it would reduce the review cycle for the threshold from five years to three, signalling a more dynamic calibration process as NBFC balance sheets grow and financial interlinkages deepen.

The RBI also stated that "case-specific exemptions go against a principle-based regulatory regime" — a comment made in relation to PSU NBFCs, but one that experts believe could have ramifications for Tata Sons application to surrender its NBFC registration.

RBI UNMOVED BY CALL TO RAISE LIMIT

- RBI has rebuffed calls to raise asset threshold for upper layer NBFCs to ₹2.5 lakh crore
- Decision keeps Tata Sons, the holding company of India's largest conglomerate, within its supervisory bracket and subject to listing requirements
- The Tata Sons board is divided on the IPO, with Tata Trusts-nominated director Noel Tata opposing a listing
- Fellow trust-nominated director Venu Srinivasan is in favour. Tata Trusts is the principal shareholder of Tata Sons

Premature to talk of rate hike: Malhotra

No Clear Evidence Of Second-Order Impact Of West Asia Crisis On Inflation: RBI Guv

Times News Network

Mumbai: RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday said it is "premature" to talk about an interest rate hike, pushing back against market expectations that had begun pricing in tighter monetary policy. He emphasised that the central bank has made no such signal and remains firmly data-dependent amid persistent global uncertainty.

In an interview with ET Now, Malhotra said RBI's current stance should not be interpreted as a precursor to higher rates. "If we intended to signal a hike, we would have shifted the stance from neutral to restrictive," he said, adding that given elevated uncertainty, "it is premature to discuss rate hikes."

The governor noted that easing tensions in West Asia have brought some relief to the global economy, particularly through lower crude oil prices. This, he said, is supportive of both growth and inflation moderation for India, which has strong economic linkages with the region.

However, he cautioned that the situation remains fragile. "Supply restoration will take time, inventories need rebuilding, and demand may return," he said, adding that the RBI is in a "wait-and-watch mode" as uncertainties persist. On inflation, Malhotra said there are no clear signs yet of second-round effects taking hold. Headline inflation remains below the RBI's 4% target, largely driven by food prices, while core inflation is subdued at around 2.4%.

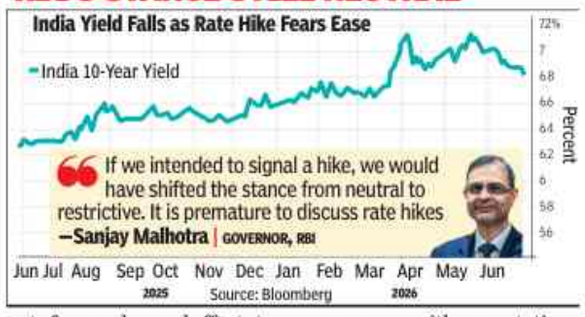
Wholesale price inflation has risen, mainly due to fuel, but the central bank is closely tracking whether these pressures spread more broadly. "If price increases generalise and persist, then policy action would be warranted. At present, we do not see such generalisation," he said.

Reiterating the RBI's stance on the currency, Malhotra said the rupee is market-determined, with intervention limited to curbing excessive volatility. He noted that recent measures have helped ensure orderly market movements and reduced speculative pressures. On capital flows, he said initiatives such as FCNR deposits and external commercial borrowings (ECBs) have seen encouraging initial responses, with expectations of continued resilience in the external sector.

Malhotra also outlined RBI's ongoing push to deepen digital financial infrastructure. He said the central bank is working towards making the BHIM app interoperable with digital rupee wallets, a move aimed at improving user convenience and accelerating adoption of the central bank digital currency (CBDC).

On technology, he noted that the RBI is actively exploring the use of AI to enhance regulatory oversight, improve efficiency, and strengthen financial stability frameworks. "We are using AI in our day-to-day work. We have our language model ChiRAG (Chat Interface with Retrieval Augmented Generation)". ChiRAG is a tool to help RBI staff retrieve, synthesise, and analyse information from the central bank's internal data and documents.

'RBI'S STANCE STILL NEUTRAL'



Sikka's AI co Hang Ten raises $32mn

Bengaluru: Former Infosys CEO **Vishal Sikka**'s enterprise AI startup, Hang Ten Systems, has raised $32 million in seed funding. Mayfield led the round, with a strategic investment from Aramco Ventures and participation from a group of angel investors. The fresh capital will be deployed to expand the company's team and deepen its engagement with global enterprises. Hang Ten focuses on helping large organisations deploy AI at scale and translate the technology into measurable business outcomes. Taking to X, Sikka said, "Hang Ten is already helping some of the world's biggest and most important enterprises — like Fresenius, Siemens Energy and others...Our dream is to help enterprises not just transform with AI, but use it as a force to do what no one could do before." TNN

Noel exit triggers Tata board shake-up

▶ Continued from page 1

As Trusts chairman, Noel is among those nominees. Trent's annual shareholder meeting on Tuesday marked Noel's last AGM as chairman of the retail company where he began his career with Tata Group and where he built a single store company into one of India's leading fashion and lifestyle chains.

At the Trent AGM, Noel told shareholders: "As you might be aware, this will be my last annual general meeting as chairman." Noel will chair his final AGMs at Voltas on June 30 and Tata Investment Corporation on July 1. Tata Steel's AGM follows on July 2, where he serves as vice chairman — with group chairman N Chandrasekaran expected to preside.

Titan's AGM is expected in mid-to-late July, where Noel also serves as vice-chairman and will not preside.

Noel joined Trent's board as a director on Aug 19, 2010, making it the first Tata company on whose board he served. He was later inducted onto the boards of other group companies. Following Ratan Tata's death in Oct 2024, he was appointed chairman of Tata Trusts and subsequently joined the board of Tata Sons the same month.

His departure will set off a wave of boardroom changes across the consumer, retail, investment and industrial companies where he has been an influential voice. The boards are yet to announce successors, who are expected to be named before his term ends in Nov.

The development also comes at a time when Tata Trusts is navigating internal conflict and governance challenges, including a regulatory inquiry by the Maharashtra charity commissioner into its largest trust.

Bengaluru's new-age cos worth ₹28.2L cr

▶ Continued from page 1

Among Karnataka's most valuable startups in the ranking are Zerodha, valued at Rs 86,660 crore, Razorpay at Rs 71,100 crore and Zepto at Rs 66,360 crore.

In value terms, Bengaluru's 57 companies had a cumulative valuation of Rs 28.2 lakh crore, up 11% from the previous year. Mumbai's companies were collectively valued at Rs 146 lakh crore, though the city's aggregate value declined 6%. Gurugram's companies were valued at Rs 19.9 lakh crore, up 2%, while Hyderabad's stood at Rs 12 lakh crore, registering a 16% increase.

At the state level, Karnataka ranked second with 59 companies and a cumulative value of Rs 28.6 lakh crore, indicating that Bengaluru accounted for almost all of the state's representation in the ranking. Maharashtra topped the list with 170 companies valued at Rs 167.1 lakh crore, followed by Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Collectively, the companies on the list have a cumulative valuation of $3.4 trillion.

India, US discuss ways to ink interim trade deal

Times News Network

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and his counterpart US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer spent the last two days reviewing the progress of the trade deal with market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors being on the table.

While the initial tranche of the trade deal is largely focused on Indian opening up its market for American goods once the US provides clarity on how the new tariff structure will work, an official statement only made a mention of finalising an interim trade deal and did not mention any timeframe.

"Both sides noted substantial progress by negotiating teams in recent months and welcomed the momentum from successive technical and ministerial-level engagements. Discussions focused on pathways to conclude an interim agreement as an important milestone toward a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to an agreement that is balanced, commercially meaningful, and delivers tangible benefits for businesses, farmers, workers, and consumers in both countries," the commerce department said in a statement.

Piyush Goyal with Jamieson Greer

The statement said both countries discussed pathways to conclude an interim agreement and reaffirmed their commitment to a deal that is "balanced and commercially meaningful".

Before the start of ministerial level talks, Indian officials had indicated that the meeting will seek to give "finishing touches" to the framework deal, whose implementation had been suspended after the US Supreme Court termed "reciprocal tariffs" illegal. In a statement released to ANI, Greer said he has underlined the US commitment to advancing a constructive, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial economic partnership with India that supports growth, opportunity and prosperity in both countries.

He said that US president Donald Trump and PM Narendra Modi have decided to take the ties between the two countries to next level in every aspect of relationship, including the trade deal and technologies.

"We know that India has a long history of agriculture, of manufacturing, but we also know that they're moving forward in technology. They want to move forward in AI. They want to cooperate and collaborate with the US on the technologies of the future and trade of the future, and that's some of the exciting opportunities that we'll have between the United States and India, to capitalise on that," Greer said.

IT services will matter more in AI era: Mahindra

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Tech Mahindra chairman **Anand Mahindra** said the role of IT services would "not diminish" but fundamentally change as AI moves to the centre of enterprise operations.

"My answer is clear: the role of IT services will not diminish. It will change. And in many ways, it will become more important," Mahindra wrote in his letter to shareholders, adding that enterprises and governments will increasingly need trusted partners to retain control over their data, context and decision-making.

He said AI is no longer a productivity tool sitting at the edge of organisations but is rapidly becoming central to how businesses design work, serve customers, manage risk and make decisions. The real challenge, however, lies in deploying AI reliably, securely and responsibly at enterprise scale.

Most large enterprises continue to grapple with legacy systems, fragmented data, complex regulations and years of accumulated technical debt. "AI cannot simply be layered over this complexity and expected to deliver transformation," Mahindra said, arguing that the winners in the next phase of AI will be companies that help enterprises convert their knowledge and processes into AI-enabled institutional capabilities.

Tech Mahindra CEO Mohit Joshi said the company is entering a "cognitive wave" in which technology moves beyond digital transformation to autonomous execution.

As the company pushes ahead with its transformation, Joshi reiterated Tech Mahindra's target of achieving a 15% operating margin and outpacing its top-tier peers. Reflecting investor confidence, the board declared a total dividend of Rs 51 per share, the highest in the company's history.

Bks to get more time to redress e-fraud plaints

Times News Network

Mumbai: The six-month delay in RBI's implementation of the cyberfraud safety net acknowledges the scale of technological and procedural overhauls required and follows industry concerns over system readiness, even as the broader thrust of the rules remains intact.

The RBI has drawn clear boundaries around the framework's scope. Disputes over defective goods or undelivered services fall outside its ambit, as do frauds involving paper cheques, which are excluded from the definition of electronic banking transactions.

Timelines for grievance redress have also been relaxed. Banks will now have up to 45 days to resolve domestic fraud complaints and 60 days for cross-border cases, replacing the draft's uniform 30-day cap.

The RBI has paired this leniency for banks with sharper customer safeguards. A new "shadow reversal" mechanism mandates that, in cases of credit-card fraud, banks must provisionally credit the disputed amount within five days of notification.

The treatment of cross-border fraud has also been recalibrated. The draft's assumption of shared liability, including a 10% contribution from beneficiary banks, has been abandoned where such banks lie outside India's jurisdiction. Instead, the RBI will bear 65% of the compensation burden, with the remitting bank absorbing 20%, reflecting the practical difficulty of recovering funds internationally. Procedural requirements for customers have, however, been tightened.

Claimants now must submit a copy of their complaint lodged on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and accept liability to refund compensation if claims are later found to be false or duplicative.

UP nets ₹50k cr investment deals in B'luru

Bengaluru: Uttar Pradesh secured investment proposals worth more than Rs 50,000 crore at the Uttar Pradesh Global Growth Dialogue 2026 in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath visited the city to woo investors as part of the state's push to become a $1 trillion economy.

The proposed investments span industrial and business parks, global capability centres (GCCs), electronics manufacturing, logistics and other sectors.

The largest commitments came in the industrial and business parks segment. Blackstone-backed Horizon Industrial Parks proposed an investment of Rs 10,000 crore. This was followed by Prestige Group with Rs 15,000 crore, Embassy with Rs 5,000 crore, Raheja Mindspace REIT with Rs 5,000 crore and Sattva Group with Rs 4,000 crore. Shriram Properties also signed an MoU to develop private industrial and business parks in the state.

The state also attracted investments in the GCC sector, with companies including LG, Aon, MetLife and Table Space signing MoUs.

Amazon chief presses Q-comm pedal

Times News Network

Mumbai: Amazon chief Andy Jassy is stepping up the company's quick commerce push in India, having lost a lot of ground to local competitors Blinkit, Swiggy Instamart and Zepto and amid an aggressive ramp up of Minutes by e-commerce rival Flipkart.

Jassy, who is on his first visit to India since assuming the CEO's office in July 2021 said the global giant will take its instant delivery service Amazon Now to more than 300 cities from over 15 currently and build the largest delivery-in-minutes network. To give some perspective, leading player Blinkit delivers in more than 200 cities, Instamart in over 130 cities and Zepto across 66 locations at present.

"It's (Now) our fastest growing e-commerce business unit in India.....we've seen orders double every quarter since its launch. And what we have learned building it here is now helping us scale it across the US and around the world," Jassy said.

Amazon was late to enter the local instant delivery space—following a pilot that was launched in Dec 2024, Now started operations in June last year, by which time rivals Blinkit, Instamart and IPO-bound Zepto had already gained major share of the market, benefiting from the first-mover advantage amid wide consumer adoption of quick delivery services.

Even Flipkart Minutes has expanded to over 130 cities in about two years. Indians today rely on quick commerce apps to get their daily dose of morning milk and regular groceries and for last-minute shopping of a range of items such as apparel, shoes, jewellery and electronics accessories. The market is led by Eternal's Blinkit which holds nearly half of the share with 27.2 million average monthly transacting users and 273.9 million orders at the end of the March quarter. Zepto follows with 210 million orders.

The Seattle-based e-commerce giant has pumped in a fresh $300 million in India to fuel quick commerce business and is betting on its paid membership service Prime to get its regular marketplace users to shift to Now for daily needs. Prime members triple their shopping frequency once they start using Now, Jassy said. Amazon is widening its network of micro-fulfilment centres or stores (at over 500 stores now) to make faster deliveries.

300-CITY TARGET FOR NOW

- E-commerce major will take its instant delivery service Amazon Now to more than 300 cities from over 15 currently
- They will be competing against the likes of Blinkit which delivers in more than 200 cities, Instamart in over 130 cities and Zepto across 66 locations

Caption: Amazon chief Jassy (C)

'Aiming for 10GW nuclear power capacity by 2035'

Times News Network

Ahmedabad: Ports-to-power conglomerate, Adani Group, plans to build 10 gigawatts (GW) of nuclear power capacity by 2035, group chairman **Gautam Adani** said on Wednesday. This marks the conglomerate's entry into nuclear energy as it expands its integrated power platform. Addressing shareholders at the group's annual general meeting (AGM), Adani said that land has already been identified for the company's nuclear venture, Adani Atomic Energy.

"Our entry into nuclear energy through Adani Atomic Energy is another confident step towards securing India's long-term energy future. We are positioning ourselves early to serve the growing national demand for clean, round-the-clock power," Adani said.

The chairman said the group viewed energy security as a strategic national priority and was building capabilities across power generation, transmission, gas distribution and emerging clean energy segments.

The announcement comes as the group expands its footprint across conventional and renewable energy businesses amid Adani's emphasis on energy security as a strategic national priority.

At Adani Power, the group is implementing "India's largest private-sector power capital expenditure programme of over Rs 2 lakh crore, with a target of reaching 45 GW of generation capacity over the next five years."

"The group invested a record more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore in infrastructure during FY 2026, accounting for more than 30% of India's total new private-sector capital expenditure," the billionaire industrialist said.

At Adani Energy Solutions, the transmission order book rose to Rs 72,000 crore during the year, supported by projects, including the Khavda-South Olpad high-voltage direct current transmission line. Adani said the company remains India's only private-sector player with proven HVDC capabilities.

The conglomerate is also partnering with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation to jointly develop 5,000 MW of hydropower projects in the neighbouring country.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर

क्रमांक: RajKaj Ref.No.22878440 दिनांक: 16.06.2026

निविदा सूचना संख्या: 06 वर्ष 2026-27

NIB No. PWD2627A1191

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **विभिन्न सड़क का निर्माण कार्य** हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में इंटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।

1.PWD2627WSOB05097

DIPR/C/10977/2026

ई-साईक
(हेमेंद्र चन्द्र शर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗ

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಸೌಧ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 001.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: KPSCKA/ADMN/VHCL/8/2026-ADMN ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-06-2026.

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗದಿಂದ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇಲಾಖಾ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಲಘುವಾಹನ (4+1 Seater & 6+1 Seater) ಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ (ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KPSC/2026-27/SE0035) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:08-07-2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಗದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:080-30565802 ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಆದೇಶದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ,
(ಸಹಿ/-)
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ(ಪ್ರ)
ಆಡಳಿತ ಶಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗ

ಪ್ರಾ.ಸಂ.ಶಾ/ಪತ್ರ/1323/ಆಕಾರ/2026-27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division, Ground Floor Building, K.R. Pura, Bengaluru - 560036.

No: BECC/EE/KRP/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 24-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division, BECC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive Developments of Roads, Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 8, Anandapura, Ward No. 9, Bhattarahalli, Ward No. 10, Basavanapura and Ward No. 11, Krishna Nagara in K.R. Pura Division of K.R. Pura Assembly Constituency under GOK Grant. **(G.O. Annexure-02, Sl.No. 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78 & 79). Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1041.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 15.00 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through K.P.P. Portal and Rs. 14.00 Lakhs as Specified in Bid Document)**

Calendar of Events: **1)** The Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Queries: **30-06-2026 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Date and Time for Pre Bid Meeting: **30-06-2026 at 15.30 Hours. 4)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Tenders: **04-07-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **06-07-2026 at 16.30 Hours. 6)** Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **07-07-2026 at 16.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
K.R. Pura Division, BECC.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP Complex, 2nd Floor, Laskar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru-560030. Mail: bbmpeebtm@gmail.com

No.EE/BTM/Kppp/07/2026-27 Date: 24-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender Notification - Two cover system) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer BTM Layout Division, BSCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work - 1st Call
1	Filling of Potholes, other Improvements and maintenance works in Tavarekere Sub division (ward No. 17, 18 and 19 - each ward 20.00 lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 60.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 60,000/- **Category :** CAT-II(A)
2	Filling of Potholes, other Improvements and maintenance works in Madiwala Sub division (ward No. 20, 21 and 22 – each ward 20.00 lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 60.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,20,000/- **Category :** Others Only
3	Filling of Potholes, other Improvements and maintenance works in Lakkasandra Sub division (ward No. 23, 24 and 29 - each ward 20.00 lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 60.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,20,000/- **Category :** Others Only
4	Filling of Potholes, other Improvements and maintenance works in Ejipura Sub division (ward No. 25, 26 and 27 – each ward 20.00 lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 60.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,20,000/- **Category :** Others Only
5	Filling of Potholes, other Improvements and maintenance works in Koramangala Sub division (ward No. 28 and 30 – each ward 20.00 lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 40.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 40,000/- **Category :** SC Only
6	Annual maintenance for procurement of cold mix tar bags for BTM Layout Division. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 28.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 28,000/- **Category :** CAT-II(A)

(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on or before **16.00 hours on 17-07-2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **13-07-2026 at 15:00 hours** in the office of The Chief Engineer Bommanhalli South Zone-2, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Begur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 to clarify the issue and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in "Instructions to Bidders" of the bidding document. **(3)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** the office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division on or after **18-07-2026 at 16:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division
Bengaluru South City Corporation

Directorate of Economics and Statistics

1st Gate, 7th Floor, M. S. Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001 Contact No.: 080-22353849

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT BID

Tender Proposal For Providing Technical L2 Level Help Desk To Monitor Crop Cutting Experiments Conducted Through Mobile Application Software Under Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojane.

Tender Reference	Notification No.DES/Act-Stores/02/L2-Helpdesk 2026-27 Dated:24.06.2026 **(KPP Portal Tender Ref No : DES/2026-27/SE0039** Dated:24.06.2026
Commencement of download of e-tender forms from website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	24.06.2026
Last Date for Queries on or before	10.07.2026 at 4.00 PM
Last date and time for uploading of tender documents on e-Procurement platform on or before	21.07.2026 at 5.30 PM
Opening of Technical Bid	23.07.2026 at 11.30 AM
Opening of Financial Bid	27.07.2026 at 4.00 PM
EMD Amount	Rs. 90,000/-
PROJECT AMOUNT(Approximate)	Rs. 90,00,000/-

Note: All communications regarding this "Tender" contact- Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 1st Gate, 7th Floor, M. S. Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001 Contact No.:080-22353849

Sd/- Director
Directorate of Economics and Statistics

DIPR/CP/1337/AKAR/2025-26

INDRAPRASTHA GAS LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of GAIL (India) Ltd., BPCL & Govt. of NCT of Delhi) (CIN : L23201DL1998PLC097614)

NOTICE FOR HIRING OF CONTRACTORS FOR PNG PROJECTS

Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) invites bids from eligible contractors through Walk-in selection process for execution of PNG works of laying of O&M service line and GI/Cu installation in O&M area in all GAs of IGL.

S. No.	GA	Venue for Walk-in	Walk-in Date and Time
1	Rajasthan (Ajmer, Pali and Rajsamand)	Plot No.03, 2nd Floor (above DIY store/ near Getwell Hospital), AMC no.119/01, Kh No. 2157 Thok Teliyan Vaishali Nagar, Ajmer, Rajasthan - 305001	02.07.2026 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
2	Uttar Pradesh (Kanpur, Fatehpur, Hamirpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Shamli, Banda, Mahoba, Chitrakoot)	1st Floor, Quantum Building, C-3, Block-C, Noida Sector-3, Uttar Pradesh- 201301	
3	Haryana (Rewari, Gurugram, Karnal, Kaithal)	IGL Bhawan, Plot No. 4, Community Center, R.K. Puram Sector-9, New Delhi - 110022	
4	Delhi, Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Hapur	IGL Bhawan, Plot No. 4, Community Center, R.K. Puram Sector-9, New Delhi - 110022	04.07.2026 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM

Eligibility: Bidder to submit copy of at least one Work order / completion certificate / execution certificate during the last 7 years indicating proof of experience in carrying out of PNG connection/pipeline-related works in the gas, water supply, drainage, telecom or any other utility sector for directly or indirectly for any CGD Companies, or for any other company.

Detailed terms and conditions, qualification criteria and evaluation/award methodology shall be as per tender document available at website **https://tenders.iglonline.net/expression-of-interest**. Interested bidders may submit the relevant documents as per the tender terms and conditions.

Any Corrigendum to this notice shall be hosted on the IGL website only, interested bidders are advised to visit the website regularly.

HAR EK KAAM DESH KE NAAM

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, MP&CS, K.R.Puram, BECC, Old Madras Road, Bengaluru-560 036

No: BECC/PR/EE(MP&CS)/04/2026-27 Date: 24.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC, Bengaluru-36, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, or GBA or BECC or equivalent Registration with/ KPWD/ CPWD/ BWSSB/ Railways/ MES/ National Highway or any state Government Organizations for the Services detailed in the table below.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Restoration of Road Cutting Works in Mahadevapura Zone-1 of BECC Limits. **Estimated Amount :** Rs.300.00 Lakhs**. EMD:** Rs.3,81,000/-.
2	Restoration of Road Cutting Works in K R Pura Zone-II of BECC Limits. **Estimated Amount :** Rs.300.00 Lakhs**. EMD:** Rs.3,81,000/-.

Calendar of events: 1) Tender Documents can be Downloaded from 29.06.2026. 2) Pre bid meeting will be held on 04.07.2026 at 15.00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS), K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. 3) Last date of submission of tender documents on or before 08.07.2026. at 16.00 hours. 4) Technical Bids will be opened on 09.07.2026. At 16.30 Hours onwards.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (MP&CS)

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)

THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: eptenders.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/519/2026 Dated : 24.06.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T591/2026	Micromanipulator system with accessories, HVAC System for IVF Lab&OT (Air Handling Unit), Battery Operated Power Drill with Reamer Saw and accessories, Syringe pump, Advanced Phaco Emulsification System, Grossing work station, Ice Lined Refrigerator	04.07.2026 11.00 am.	18.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
2.	T592/2026	Modular Operation theatre Type B, C -Arm mobile image intensifier system model A, C -Arm mobile image intensifier system model B, Arthroscopy Camera & Instruments and Shaver System Model B, Blood Gas Analyzer – 500 test/ month, Blood Gas Analyzer – 200 test/ month	07.07.2026 11.00 am.	20.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
3.	T593/2026	Linear Accelerator (LINAC) Ring Gantry, Therapeutic Apheresis Machine, 4K ENT Video Imaging System Type II	09.07.2026 11.00 am.	20.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
4.	T594/2026	Procurement of consumables for Cath lab (Category I)	20.07.2026 11.00 am.	31.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
5.	T595/2026	HD Laparoscopic System, HD Laparoscopic instruments, Defibrillator with Cardiac Monitor, Blood collection Monitor	N.A.	10.07.2026 5.00 p.m.
5.	T596 R / 2026	Mobile Digital Radiography Model B, Refrigerated Incubator for Animal Husbandry, Refrigerated Micro Centrifuge for Animal Husbandry, Ergometer, Active Passive Exercise System for upper and lower Extremity, Sperm Fuge, Microdebrider for ENT, Pediatric Cysto - Urethroscope 8Fr, Body Box for Plethysmography, Cycler for performing Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) Type A, Semi rigid Thoracoscope with Camera, Light Source and Display Unit, Magnetic Stirrer, Tissue Homogenizer, Retractor Set, LCD Vision Monitor, Normal Delivery Kits, Delivery Kits for C-Section, Whole Body Phototherapy Unit, Instruments for VATS (Video assisted Thoracic Surgery), Nephroscope 19.5Fr, Drying Cabinet, MRI Compatible Basic Vital Monitor, MRI Compatible Ventilator, Intra Oral Digital Radiographic System Type B, High Frequency Neonatal Ventillator	N.A.	14.07.2026 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Bharat Petroleum — Shaping The Future

NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR ITS CORPORATION OWNED AND CORPORATION OPERATED RETAIL OUTLETS (COCO)

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to engage **Service Provider** for providing manpower and various services at its Corporation Owned and Corporation Operated Retail Outlets at various locations in the State of **Karnataka**. The detailed advertisement, guidelines/brochure and application form are available in our website **(http://www.bharat petroleum.in/bharat-petroleum-for/business-associates/coco.aspx)** and the same can also be downloaded. Completed application forms should reach the office as indicated in the detailed advertisement latest by **24.07.2026, 1700 hrs.** Corrigendum, if any, will be on the above website.

Bharatgas · MAK Lubricants · Bharat Petroleum Aviation Service · Industrial & Commercial

Energising Lives, Energising Naya Bharat

'मेरी सड़क' ऐप डाउनलोड कर, फीडबैक देकर राष्ट्र के विकास में सहयोग दें।

MADHYA PRADESH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(An Agency of Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Govt. of M.P.)
3rd Floor, Vikas Bhawan, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.)
(GST No. 23AAATM9054A3ZX)
No. 5997/22/D-12/SQC/MPRRDA/2026
Bhopal, Dated : 22.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SQC CONSULTANCY

(E-Procurement Notice)

Online bids are invited from the consultants fulfilling the required qualification criteria for Supervision and Quality Control Consultancy of Rural Roads being constructed under PMGSY-IV, MMTSY & Other Works for the following districts.

• No. of Packages – 74

Name of Districts/PIU-Agar, Alirajpur, Anuppur, Ashoknagar, Balaghat, Barwani, Betul, Burhanpur, Bhind, Bhopal, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Dindori, Guna, Gwalior, Harda, Narmadapuram, Indore, Jabalpur, Jhabua, Katni, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandla, Mandsaur, Morena, Narsinghpur, Neemuch, Panna, Raisen, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Rewa, Mauganj, Sagar, Satna, Maihar, Sehore, Seoni, Shahdol, Shajapur, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Ujjain, Umariya, Vidisha & Waidhan.

• Cost of Bid Document, Bid Security (EMD) and service charges as appearing on e-procurement portal are to be paid simultaneously through Debit Card/Credit Card/Internet Banking or system generated challan. For detailed procedure of online payment of EMD and submission of affidavit please refer condition number 2 of detailed NIT.

1. RFP document may be seen, downloaded and purchased from our e-procurement website **https://mptenders.gov.in from 14.30 hrs on 26.07.2026.**
2. Last date of Submission of bid is **date 29.07.2026 upto 15.00 hrs.**

Other details & conditions may be seen in the detailed NIT, Tender document for SQC of Roads and Bridge works **June, 2026** on our Website **http://mptenders.gov.in.**

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER
M.P. Madhyam/126539/2026 **(TENDER)**

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

Office of the Estate Officer, Krishi Nagar, Dharwad-580 005

No.EO/UASD/ 2026-27 Date : 20.06.2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is invited as per KC-1 through e-Procurement portal from the Public Sector Banks, RRBs & Scheduled Banks those having branches in Hubli-Dharwad City Limit for providing the competitive rate of interest on Short Term Deposits. The surplus amount Rs. **53,00,00,000/-** of General Provident Fund is to be parked in the form of short term fixed deposits in the banks. The details of the notification and conditions etc., can be had with bid document by visiting the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS : (1) Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids : **04.07.2026** To 17.00 Hrs (2) Date & Time for Opening of bid : **06.07.2026** At 11.00 Hrs

The interested Banks need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For more details, please contact ph. No: **080-23010900**, The Banks are requested to get updated with corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online at the following e-Procurement website in the entire tender process. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

The University reserves the right at its absolute discretion to proceed or cancel with the tender at any stage before awarding the work.

DIPR/Dharwad/351/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/- Estate Officer**

MADHYA PRADESH PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL : https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 23.06.2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and Portal from dated 23.06.2026 to next 30 days :-

1. Online Tender Ref. No. T-916/MPPHSCL/Biochemistry Equipment (Set-4)/QC/2026 Dated : 18.06.2026 Uploaded on portal & Website.
2. Online Tender Ref. No. T-920/MPPHSCL/Dermatology Equipment/QC/2026, Dated : 23.06.2026 Uploaded on portal & Website.
3. Online EOI No. :- 05/MPPHSCL/Services/2026 for Engagement of Service Provider for Logistics & Supply Chain Management for Distribution of Drugs & Consumables to Primary Health Centers and Sub Health Centres Form Community Health Centre or District drug Store in State of Madhya Pradesh" Dated : 23.06.2026 Uploaded on portal & Website.
4. Tender(s) for Shaker Incubator (CLMC Equipment).
5. Tender(s) for Physiotherapy Equipment.
6. Tender(s) for Blood Bank Equipment.
7. Tender(s) for Elisa Reader with washer Equipment.
8. Tender(s) for Anatomy Department Equipment.
9. Tender(s) for Various Equipment.
10. Tender(s) for Various Drugs.
11. Tender(s) for Various Surgical & Consumables.
12. Tender(s) for Various Ayush Consumables/Drugs.

All Prospective bidders are requested to visit **"www.mptenders.gov.in./https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, https://gem.gov.in"** for further details.

M.P. Madhyam/126537/2026 **CGM (TECHNICAL)**

16001/22/2627

ocac

ODISHA COMPUTER APPLICATION CENTRE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Enq. No. : OCAC-IFITP-PROP-0010-2026-26043

Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Developer for Development Operation and Maintenance of IT Park at Damana Square in Bhubaneswar. For details please visit websites **www.ocac.in**.

The EOI must be submitted in one original and a copy and clearly marked as "Original" and "Copy" not later than **17.00 hours on 20.07.2026** in sealed envelope marked "Development and Maintenance of the IT Park at Damana, Bhubaneswar" on its top addressed to **Officer on Special Duty (OSD), OCAC Building, Acharya Vihar Square, Bhubaneswar- 751013, Odisha.**

OCAC reserves the right to accept/ reject any/all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

For queries, contact: IT Promotion Cell, OCAC, E-mail: **ifitp.eit@odisha.gov.in**.

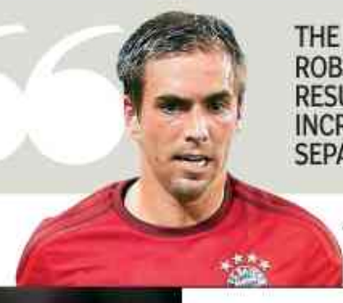
Officer on Special Duty(OSD)

OIPR-16001/16003/1/26-27/0014

GOAL RUSH

11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026

TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026



"THE WORLD CUP IS BEING SOLD OUT. THIS ROBS FOOTBALL OF ITS CREDIBILITY. AS A RESULT, FANS ARE UNEASY. IT'S BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO SEPARATE FIFA FROM THE EVENT ITSELF."

—**PHILIPP LAHM** | GERMANY'S FORMER WORLD CUP-WINNING CAPTAIN

STALL SIUUU GOOD!

Cristiano Releases The Pressure With Double To Join Superstars' Party

PORTUGAL 5
Ronaldo 6, 39; Mendes 17, Nematov 60 (og), Leao 87
UZBEKISTAN 0

Jeremy Cross

Houston: Cristiano Ronaldo's name is up in lights again. Lights which had threatened to go out on the Portugal icon and leave him in total darkness.

But in the space of two hours in Houston, Ronaldo got lift-off to prove he can still be out of this world.

Going from almost getting the boot, to being in with a chance of winning the golden one awarded to the tournament's highest scorer. While sticking two fingers up to his critics, reminding them all he remains one of the bona fide superstars of this World Cup, which will welcome him back with open arms. Because he has finally joined in the same fun his main rivals and other greats have been having here. Head coach Roberto Martinez will be relieved he stood firm. Ruben Dias came back in, while Bernardo Silva was dropped in favour of Chelsea's Joao Felix.

But the untouchable Ronaldo continued to lead Portugal's attack.

And the pressure had been on him like never before. Since drawing to African minnows DR Congo in their opening game, the Portugal camp had been swamped with a deluge of controversy and chaos.

A group of individuals split down the middle — over the most famous one of all. Even Oscar winner Matthew McConaughey had chipped in with an opinion. So much so that the arrival of a second group game in Houston must have felt like a relief. But it was one Portugal had to win.

And in an ideal world, Ronaldo would remind critics he could still do what the likes of Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland had done — showcase his talents on the biggest stage. It took him less than six minutes to provide an emphatic answer.

Joao Cancelo burst down the right and picked out his captain, who smashed an unstoppable finish into the bottom corner.

He ran straight to the bench to celebrate his latest accolade with the entire squad as he became the first player to score in six World Cups.

Suddenly, Portugal were running hot. It was like all the tension had been lifted in one magical moment.

Ronaldo then feigned to take a free-kick, which confused Abduvohid Nematov so much he allowed Nuno Mendes to beat him and double Portugal's lead.

Portugal could smell blood. Uzbekistan needed to smell the salts.

The gulf in class was embarrassing and something Ronaldo was only too happy to take full advantage of. Which he did before half-time, bursting onto Bruno Fernandes's pass before sliding a sublime finish into the far corner. It was the first time Portugal had scored three goals before half-time in a World Cup game.

A game which was now over. Ronaldo was denied his hat-trick three times as the onslaught continued, before Nematov's own goal and one from Rafa Leao piled on the pain for Fabio Cannavaro's men.

But Ronaldo could not keep the smile off his face as he mouthed 'I'm back' to the cameras. Having been consigned to history, he had gone and written some more of the stuff, to add another little layer to his legacy. DAILY MIRROR

"IT WAS A DIFFICULT, DARK WEEK. IT FELT LIKE I WAS ALREADY RETIRED FROM FOOTBALL, BUT I HELD ON AS I ALWAYS DO, BECAUSE I BELIEVE MORE IN HARD WORK THAN IN FOOTBALL. IT WAS DIFFICULT, I HAVE TO CONFESS, BUT WE'RE BACK."
—Cristiano Ronaldo

10 Ronaldo went past Eusebio (9) as Portugal's top-scorer at the FIFA World Cup.

49 Uzbekistan is the 49th nation Ronaldo has scored against. He's now hit an incredible 145 goals in 230 appearances.

24 Against Uzbekistan, Ronaldo played his 24th World Cup match for Portugal. Only Lionel Messi (28) and Lothar Matthäus (25) have made more World Cup appearances.

22y 183d The gap of 22 years and 183 days between Uzbekistan's Bekhruz Karimov (18y 320d) and Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (41y 138d) is the biggest gap between two starting players in a match in the history of the World Cup

TIME TO ASK APOLLO

WHITE PATCHES
About 1% of people develop white skin patches caused by vitiligo.
Scan to understand the signs
For any Health Query Chat with Ask Apollo
Apollo 24|7

Budimir winner keeps Croatia in fray

CROATIA 1
Budimir 54
PANAMA 0

Toronto: Croatia's match-winner Ante Budimir rejoiced in their 1-0 victory against Panama at the World Cup and hoped they would learn the right lessons as they stayed in contention to progress.

Croatia beat a battling Panama side at the Toronto stadium on Tuesday in a game neither side could afford to lose after both teams started their campaigns with a defeat. Croatia's win courtesy of a second-half goal from substitute Budimir kept alive their hopes of reaching the Round of 32.

"We have started well in this tournament and hope we draw the right lessons and continue to build on this victory," Budimir told reporters.

Croatia, who lost 4-2 to England in their World Cup opener, are third in Group L on three points before facing a stubborn Ghana side on Saturday in Philadelphia.

England lead on four points above Ghana on goal difference.

"I am happy that I secured my first goal at the World Cup, it is important for us to start winning and get back to the team we were before," Budimir said. Croatia's Luka Modric, 40, played his 200th international and was thrown in the air by his teammates after the match. Budimir explained that it was nice to enjoy such milestones with a celebration, especially when the team win. "We are grateful to have a captain like Luka — a great player and a great person," Budimir added. AFP

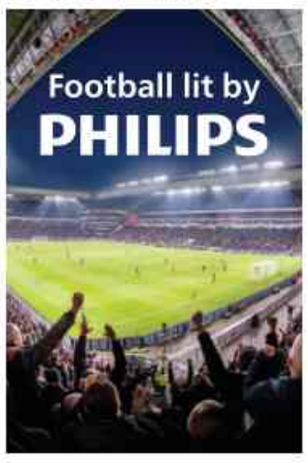
IANS

MILESTONE MAN: Croatia's Luka Modric, 40, played his 200th international and teammates celebrated by throwing him in the air after the match against Panama

US allows Iran team to travel 2 days before next match

Tijuana: The US is easing its restrictions on Iran team, allowing the squad to travel into the country two days before its next match, the US department of homeland security said on Tuesday.

The team will still be required to leave after Friday's match in Seattle, a spokesperson said. Iran confirmed that the team will leave its base camp in Tijuana, Mexico, on Wednesday for Seattle.



Deschamps returns home to attend mother's funeral

Paris: France coach Didier Deschamps will return home from the World Cup following the death of his mother and will miss his team's final group game against Norway, the French football federation said Tuesday. The FFF said Deschamps learned of his mother's death on Tuesday morning and that he is going back to France to attend her funeral. AGENCIES

NOW THAT'S GHANA HURT

Toothless Three Lions suffer as Africans stun Tuchel stars

Boston: The feelgood factor turned to frustration in the space of only six days.

Thomas Tuchel looked on from the bench as England blew a great chance to stamp their authority all over this World Cup and start planning their route in the knockout stages. Instead, the Three Lions were sloppy, wasteful and frustrating as Ghana thwarted Tuchel's men in a dull, numbingly painful performance in the Gillett Stadium. England have suffered from second-game syndrome in their last three major tournaments and, after the euphoria of that opening win over Croatia, were desperate not to slip into bad habits. In Qatar, at the last World Cup, England battered Iran 6-2 only to be held by the United States next time out. They beat Croatia in the Euros in 2021, only to be held by Scotland, while they defeated Serbia in Euro 2024 only to draw against Denmark in their second game.

ENGLAND 0
GHANA 0

Not since the World Cup in 2018 - beating Tunisia and then Panama - have they won their opening two games. And you have to go all the way back to 2006 for the previous time. Harry Kane reminded the players in a team meeting this week about the importance of maintaining standards and momentum. Tuchel likes to keep everyone guessing on his starting XI and sprang a surprise by bringing in Marc Guehi and Djed Spence for John Stones and Nico O'Reilly respectively.

Spence immediately caught the eye by appearing to snub Thomas Partey's handshake as Ghana's ex-Arsenal midfielder is due to stand trial next year after pleading not guilty to seven charges of rape and one count of sexual assault between 2020 and 2022. England looked sluggish from the start. They were so dynamic and exciting in the second half against Croatia and yet so underwhelming and lacking in ideas in the first 45 minutes here.

Reuters

OVER THE TOP: Ghana coach Carlos Queiroz (C) wins a shouting match against Jude Bellingham during the Group L clash

"Frustrated a little bit with how they defended, how they set up. They got exactly out of the game what they played for. Couldn't quite break them down, even with all corners, all the possession, all the shots on goal from distance."
—**Jude Bellingham** | ENGLAND MIDFIELDER

79% England's share of possession against Ghana, the highest by any team that failed to score in a match in the last 60 years at the World Cup.

Declan Rice tried to break through.

Kane barely got a kick. Anthony Gordon ran down blind alleys. Jude Bellingham was crowded out. England did not move the ball fast enough. Even England assistant coach Anthony Barry's half-time TV interview underwhelmed. He just pleaded for patience and claimed it was an "OK half ". Hardly.

Ghana offered little but Gordon lost track of Marvin Senaya and Spence showed great awareness to snuff out the danger.

England did not manage a shot on target until the 57th minute. First, Noni Madueke saw his shot blocked and then Gordon's effort from the rebound was comfortably saved by Ghana keeper Benjamin Asare. Tuchel rolled the dice and brought on Bukayo Saka as England looked to the bench for some much needed inspiration - but still found little. DAILY MIRROR

Munoz, Colombia's unexpected hero

COLOMBIA 1
Munoz 76
DR CONGO 0

Guadaljara: Right-back Daniel Munoz emerged on Tuesday as the unexpected hero of Colombia, scoring a dramatic late goal that secured victory and qualification for the Coffee Growers in the World Cup Round of 32.

While all eyes were on Bayern Munich winger Luis Diaz and Minnesota United midfielder James Rodriguez, it was Munoz who stepped up to give Colombia a 1-0 win over DR Congo, adding to his goal in Colombia's victory against Uzbekistan.

The Crystal Palace player initially put the ball in DR Congo's net in the eighth minute, but after a VAR review, Italian referee Maurizio Mariani ruled him offside and disallowed the goal.

Nearly 70 minutes passed before a superb pass from Juan Fernando Quintero reached Munoz who finally broke through the resolute defense put up by goalkeeper Lionnel Mpasi. After being named Player of the Match, Munoz sought to temper the well-deserved accolades. "Just because I scored the goal doesn't mean I'm the star. We're all the stars. We all earned these three points. This is a family, and here, the star is Colombia," Munoz said after the match.

"The effort of the entire team deserves recognition. Nothing is easy; nobody is getting anything for free," he said. In Colombia's first match last week, Munoz paved the way to victory by slipping into the Uzbekistan penalty area in the 40th minute to score the opening goal of a contest that ended 3-1. REUTERS

AP

HAPPY DAYS: Colombia's Daniel Munoz celebrates after scoring against DR Congo to secure passage to the Round of 32

SUPER SUBS TAKE OVER

At 34 years and 336 days old, **Ante Budimir** is the oldest player to come off the bench and score the winner for Croatia. The 2026 World Cup has become the tournament of the super-sub. With 23 of the 121 goals scored by players coming off the bench, substitutes account for a record-breaking 21.4% of all goals — the highest share in World Cup history.

WORLD CUP RECORD

2026 21.4%
2014 18.7% (previous record)

Lionel Messi
World Cup debut goal came as a substitute in 2006

MOST GOALS BY SUBSTITUTES IN A WORLD CUP

2014 32 | 2022 30 | 2026 30 (and counting)

Why they play all final group games simultaneously

Ghost Of Gijon Reappears As An Expanded Tournament Raises Sporting Integrity Concerns

Atlanta: Algeria have waited 44 years for a shot at World Cup revenge against Austria, but the clash is one of many in the final round of group games where sides could settle for a mutually beneficial outcome. Austria's 1-0 defeat to West Germany at the 1982 World Cup has lived on in World Cup infamy as "the disgrace of Gijon" after the teams played out a result that would take both through at the expense of Algeria on goal difference.

After worldwide condemnation and a fruitless formal complaint by Algeria, FIFA decided that in subsequent tournaments the final two games in each group would be played simultaneously.

But the expansion to a 48-team tournament, and with it the return for the first time since 1994 of some third-place sides progressing to the knockout stage, has opened the door to questions over the sporting integrity of the competition once more.

Four points is almost certain to be enough to go through at least as one of the eight best third-placed sides from the 12 groups. Australia and Paraguay face off on Thursday locked on three points after both beat Turkey and lost to co-hosts the United States. A stalemate in Santa Clara near San Francisco would allow both to progress.

"We could both progress with a point, that's evident, but I don't think it's in us to just concede or just take the foot off the gas," said Australia defender Jason Geria. Egypt's meeting with Iran in Seattle on Friday is another where both could benefit from just a point.

Getty Images

DISGRACE OF GIJON: Germany (in white) and Austria played out a result that would take both through at the expense of Algeria on goal difference. Algerian fans protest during the match at the El Molinon Stadium in Gijon on June 25, 1982

A third draw for Iran would likely be enough to qualify for the knockout stages as at least one of the best third-placed sides. A point could also be enough for Egypt to win Group G, so long as Belgium do not beat New Zealand by more than two goals. On top of the possible collusion between sides to obtain a favourable outcome, another change to FIFA's rules for this World Cup already means the third group game will be a dead rubber for far more nations.

For the first time, head-to-head records instead of goal difference is being used as the tiebreaker for countries level on points. Mexico, USA, Germany and Argentina are guaranteed to win their groups while Haiti, Turkey, Tunisia, Jordan and Panama know they are out. There is a further discrepancy in that teams playing in the final groups to finish will have a better idea of what is required to be one of the best third-placed sides. The difficulties presented by narrowing 48 teams to 32 has led to suggestions that a 64-team World Cup is inevitable. AFP

How the best 3rd-placed teams will be picked:

- If two or more countries are level on points, head-to-head results are used as a tie-breaker.
- If the teams still remain tied, they are ranked on goal difference, goals scored, Fifa's Team Conduct Score — a disciplinary metric for red and yellow cards, and finally whoever had the higher Fifa ranking in June's published update.
- These criteria are applied in the 12 groups of four and to determine the rankings of the 12 third-placed sides.

LOTS TO PLAY FOR IN D, E, F

Three done, **three more on the line.** Now it's time for teams from **Groups D, E and F** to stake their claim in the knock-outs. In two of the three groups, one team is already in the Round of 32 while one has exited. Still, placings are up for grabs and more importantly, **the race for third spot. Head-to-head, which is a determining factor ahead of Goal Difference** this time, may become important. **TOI** takes a look at the chances of the teams in the three groups...

GROUP D

TEAM	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
USA	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
Australia	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	2	4	-2	3
Turkiye	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0

- **USA** have **already topped the group** with wins against Paraguay and Australia
- Paraguay Vs Australia **is a shoot-out** with a winner assured of 2nd spot
- **Draw will also hand Australia the 2nd spot** with a superior GD while **Paraguay's fate** will **hang in balance**
- **Turkiye** are already **out**

GROUP E

TEAM	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Germany	2	2	0	0	9	2	7	6
Ivory Coast	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Ecuador	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
Curacao	2	0	1	1	1	7	-6	1

- **Germany will stay on top** irrespective of their result with Ecuador
- **Ecuadorians must beat Germany** to stay in the hunt
- If **Curacao,** with their inspirational goalkeeper **Eloy Room** playing at his best, **can beat Ivory Coast** and go to 2nd (or 3rd) spot, it will be one of the **biggest upsets of the World Cup. A draw will be enough for the Ivorians** to qualify as the 2nd team

GROUP F

TEAM	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	7	3	4	4
Japan	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4
Swedan	2	1	0	1	6	6	0	3
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	1	9	-8	0

- **Extremely open** group, but **Dutch should beat eliminated Tunisia** to stay on top
- **In case Dutch drop points, Sweden or Japan can top the group** with decisive result
- **Japan** will go through as the **2nd team with draw**
- **Sweden need a win to assure 2nd spot,** but draw may also be enough for 3rd spot

Americans love a show: Turnout defies concerns

New York: World Cup attendances are on track for record highs despite daunting ticket prices and Trump's travel restrictions. Experts say it is less a reflection of America's fondness for 'soccer' and more a measure of its love of spectacle. Through 44 matches, attendance topped 2.85 million, with the average stadium about 99.6% full.

"Americans like big events," said Dan Rascher, a sports economics expert at the University of San Francisco. This year's World Cup is bigger — totalling 104 matches, up from 64 — but attendance is on pace to break the all-time record well before this year's 64th game. The existing mark of nearly 3.6 million spectators was set in 1994, the last time the US hosted. "Part of it is that we have these gigantic stadiums," said economist Victor Matheson. But stadiums are also fuller, on a percentage basis, than nearly any WC this century, with the possible exception of Germany 2006.

FIFA has forecast more than $3bn in revenue from ticket sales, hospitality rights. Matheson reckons the number could climb as high as $4bn. That compares with about $949m in 2022, and $712m in 2018. More than 3.5m fans had visited the fan festivals through Monday. The festivals amassed 7.7m visits during the 2018 Russia World Cup, and 5.5 million in Brazil 2014. REUTERS

Leweling's Ronaldo cut: 'Only if we win the final!'

Germany Seek Three Out Of Three, Midfielder Looks Further Ahead

Winston-Salem: Germany's Jamie Leweling promised he would cut his hair into the triangle fringe made popular in 2002 by Brazil's Ronaldo, after the midfielder changed his profile picture on social media with an AI one in which he sports the former World Cup winner's iconic hairstyle.

Ronaldo, who played with that haircut en route to a 2002 title win with Brazil, sent Leweling a signed Brazil shirt on Tuesday after being informed of the midfielder's doctored profile picture.

"You saw I changed my profile picture with this Ronaldo haircut. It was a bit of fun but it got so much attention that the real Ronaldo sent me a shirt. A Brazilian reporter gave it to me," Leweling told a press conference, lifting up the signed Brazil jersey. He then promised to mimic the two-time World Cup winner should Germany win the World Cup. "Until the final there are still a few games to go but if we win the final then I will make that haircut. This is my promise to Germany," he said.

TOP SPOT

The Germans have secured top spot in the group with two wins over Curacao and Ivory Coast and will play their round of 32 match in Boston. They are still waiting to see which team they will face but are unlikely to rest key players against Ecuador on Thursday as they look to make it three wins from three Group E matches. "Ecuador have players who play at the highest level in Europe. They may not have had a good start to this World Cup. We will have solutions," Leweling said.

One of Germany's strengths is their depth off the bench, with substitute Deniz Undav scoring both goals in the 2-1 win over Ivory Coast and fellow substitute Nadiem Amiri delivering one of the assists. Undav, a teammate of Leweling's at VfB Stuttgart, scored three goals and had two assists in the first two matches. "It's great to see Deniz up there (on the scorers' list). It is fully deserved," Leweling said. "We have a very good team spirit. On the bench we have fun, When we come on, we are excited. It worked well for the subs on Saturday." REUTERS

Pix: Getty Images

HAIR WE GO: Germany's Leweling shows off a Brazil jersey signed by Brazil legend Ronaldo. He has promised to get a haircut like the triangle fringe that **Ronaldo sported at 2002 World Cup in Japan-Korea (below)**

Group E
CURACAO VS IVORY COAST
ECUADOR VS GERMANY
1:30 am (Friday) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Curacao eye upset against Ivory Coast

Philadelphia: Tiny Curacao had previously given themselves little chance against the Ivory Coast at the World Cup, but a draw in their last group game with Ecuador might well have changed their perspective.

The smallest nation to compete at the finals were handed a 7-1 pasting by Germany on their tournament debut but then produced a dogged defensive display to take a point off Ecuador in their second Group E fixture.

Veteran coach Dick Advocaat had sought to dampen expectations on the Caribbean island. But the goalless draw with Ecuador, who finished second in South American qualifying, offers hope of another potential upset against the Ivorians, who will finish second in the group if they win. It was a stout defensive performance from Curacao, led by 37-year-old goalkeeper Eloy Room, who plays in the second tier of professional football in the United States.

An attacking Ivory Coast beat Ecuador in their opening fixture and were 1-0 up at halftime against Germany in their second group game but let the lead slip and lost. The Ivorians are chasing the runners-up berth, which would put them on course to play either France or Norway. REUTERS

Surfing, s'mores and sun: US stars bond in California

Irvine: Midway through US goalkeeper Matt Freese's World Cup media duties, the familiar face of Weston McKennie appeared among the scrum of reporters. "It's hard to focus on you guys!" said Freese, as the star midfielder tried his best to distract his teammate. "He was also our chauffeur — he drove us here on a golf cart," Freese said.

In between their on-field heroics in wins against Paraguay and Australia, the US players have plenty of time for hi-jinks at their southern California training base.

It is a few miles from the luxury beachfront hotel that has been fully taken over by the squad. Fellow 'keeper Matt Turner has called the resort "our little oasis" while midfielder Gio Reyna admitted to feeling "spoiled". The joviality is at odds with Qatar four years ago, when Reyna was almost sent home after a bust-up with then-coach Gregg Berhalter.

Balogun refused to reveal which players had taken up surfing. Pulisic said he has taken to making s'mores — a confection consisting of a toasted marshmallow and chocolate, sandwiched between crackers — over a "little fire pit". Reyna goes for "a dip, a little recovery and a little sun" on the beach.

For Freese, it all brings the players closer together. AFP

Group D
TURKIYE VS USA
PARAGUAY VS AUSTRALIA
7:30 am (Friday) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Pulisic (centre) returns to training

Sweden vow to stay compact against organised Japan

Dallas: With some of the disappointment of his side's 5-1 thrashing by the Netherlands now having subsided, Sweden coach Graham Potter said his team must be more compact when they take on Japan in their final group game at the World Cup on Thursday.

Potter held an extended media briefing in which he went into great detail about his team, their tactics and what they would need to improve when they take on Japan.

"We have to be compact as a team defensively," Potter said. "I think with Japan, because of their coordination, because of how synchronised they are, if the pitch is big and we're defending big areas, then it's going to be a tough day.

"We have to make sure that we're compact, and I think that's going to be the case for the tournament however long we get to."

The Swedes kicked off the tournament with a 5-1 victory over Tunisia but were brought crashing back down to earth in their Dutch drubbing, and Potter said the issue is to find the right blend between defence and attack.

"I think we've probably got some of the best players in the world attacking big spaces, so there is something about being low, but not too low and not too passive because you want to set up chances to attack," he added.

The Dutch top Group F on four points, ahead of Japan on goals scored, with the Swedes in third spot on three points. Potter is still bullish. "On our day, I think we are capable of giving everybody a game and winning a football match," he said. REUTERS

Group F
TUNISIA VS THE NETHERLANDS
JAPAN VS SWEDEN
4:30 am (Fri) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

'CLEAR-BAG' RULE SURPRISES FANS

Inglewood: Fans streaming into stadiums for Cup matches have been shocked to find they can't take their purses or backpacks in with them due to a 'clear-bag' policy in place for security reasons. Many find themselves scrambling to get their belongings out of their own bag and transferred into clear plastic bags — and for that, most stadiums are surrounded by clear-bag hawkers selling their product around $20. "I looked on the website. It didn't say anything about clear bags," said Ethan Magda, 19, from Arizona, who was at the LA stadium. Fans from countries outside the US and Europe don't face the clear-bag rule. "I didn't know we can't bring this bag," said Taiwanese Ken Son, 27, who was picking up his small bag from a paid bag-storage locker. REUTERS

Getty Images

LUMUMBA'S HERE: DR Congo's most famous fan, Mboladinga, who poses as a living 'statue' of independence leader Lumumba, at the match against Colombia in Mexico

Red or green? For Brazil, the politics of World Cup kits matter

Morristown: When Brazil faced Scotland in the World Cup on Thursday, the South American team's goalkeeper Alisson Becker was dressed in a green kit — not the red one originally approved by FIFA.

In any other country, such a wardrobe change might have gone unnoticed, but not in Brazil where the national team's colours have become the subject of a deep political dispute. The Selecao's iconic yellow and green jerseys were co-opted years ago by conservatives aligned with far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro — who is serving time for plotting a coup after losing the 2022 elections to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

And while Lula has set out to reclaim the colours of Brazil's flag in his push to reelection in Oct, red — not typically part of Team Brazil's gear — is the colour of the left, his party.

When FIFA unveiled the group stage kits for each team's goalkeepers before the tournament began, it said Alisson would be in a completely red uniform for the team's final Group C match. The Liverpool shot-stopper wore black and pink kits against Morocco and Haiti. But before the match in Miami, the change came down on the goalkeeper's dress code: the red kit was dropped in favour of the green.

Getty Images

GO GREEN: Brazil federation went with the green-coloured goalkeeper jersey to identify with colours of the flag, and not any political party

Prioritizing Brazil colours

After Brazilian media reported that the president of the football federation (CBF) Samir Xaud had "vetoed" the red kit, he told ESPN the change was long-planned. "It's something we already talked about some time ago. We're prioritizing the colours of Brazil's flag," Xaud said.

Last Aug, Xaud asked Nike, which has outfitted the team since 1996, to cancel the red kits — saying then that the move was not because of "political reasons" but to exalt national colours. The national federation denied any "veto," and said FIFA chose the red kit "without knowing" it was not part of Brazil's clothing collection for the games. "We included the red one as the fourth option but it has not been released on the market and not part of Nike's collection," CBF said.

The politicization of the Selecao's uniforms has permeated the football-mad country. Some avoid green and yellow to avoid any association with Bolsonaro, while others on the left wear unofficial red merch emblazoned with the CBF's crest or communist symbols. "We need to wear green and yellow and add 'Not a Bolsonarist,'" the 80-year-old Lula said. "We shouldn't let Brazil's colours be taken over by any fascist." AFP

SNAP SHOTS

IOC TO CHOOSE 2036 OLYMPIC HOST IN 2029

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will choose the host of the 2036 summer Olympic Games in "mid-2029," Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, chair of the IOC's Future Host Commission, announced on Wednesday. The IOC also announced during their 146th session in Lausanne that they would be employing a new three-step system for picking the next hosts, beginning in March 2027.

Sooryavanshi to get separate changing room: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is set for a rather unusual experience on his maiden senior international tour, during which the 15-year-old will get a separate changing room as part of safeguarding protocols for India's upcoming T20I series in England. According to a report in 'The Guardian', Sooryavanshi will have separate changing facilities at all venues in England because International Cricket Council event safeguarding rules -- along with England and Wales Cricket Board regulations -- do not allow U-16 players to use adult changing rooms.

India defeat Sri Lanka: Opener Tanishka Sharma's superb fifty was complemented by the bowling duo of Janhavi Veerkar and Maitri Maniar as India defeated Sri Lanka by 11 runs in their U-19 women's T20 game in Chennai on Wednesday. **Brief scores: India: 134/6 in 20 overs** (Tanishka 58, Ira 26) bt **Sri Lanka 123/8 in 20 overs** (Vimoksha 61; Janhavi 3-14, Maitri 3-26).

Treesa-Gayatri advance: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advanced to the second round of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament after overcoming Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez 21-12 14-21 21-13 in Fullerton, US. In men's singles, Rounak Chouhan entered the main draw after defeating Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin 13-21 21-14 21-10.

Kickstart clinch title: Kickstart FC handed HAL SC a 2-0 defeat to emerge champions in the Karnataka Youth Premier League in Bengaluru on Wednesday. **Result: Final:** Kickstart 2 (Sachin R 23, Allen Dammi 58) bt HAL 0. **Awards: Best Goalkeeper:** Abdur Rafee (HAL), Defender: Allan Dammu (Kickstart), **Midfielder:** Mohak Muttalmani (Kickstart); Highest **Goal-scorer:** Sachin R (Kickstart).

Opus One wins: The Suraj P Shaw-trained Opus One, ridden by Arvind Kumar, won the SV Subramaniam Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races in Mysuru on Wednesday.

India face B'desh in semis push

Harmanpreet's Team Needs To Recover Quickly In Crucial Tie

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

India's six-wicket defeat to South Africa earlier this week has made Thursday's clash against Bangladesh at Old Trafford crucial to their semifinal hopes in the Women's T20 World Cup. Australia are unbeaten at the top while India, South Africa and Bangladesh are locked on four points each. India's superior net run rate is keeping them in second place for now but a defeat to Bangladesh will leave them needing to beat Australia in their final league match and depend on other results to stay alive.

With two league matches remaining, the margin for error has narrowed sharply. The simplest route for India is to win both their remaining games, starting with Bangladesh. A win on Thursday will keep them ahead in the race for the second semifinal spot.

However, if India beat Bangladesh but lose to Australia in their final group game, they will need South Africa to slip up in at least one of their remaining fixtures against Netherlands and Bangladesh. In that scenario, net run rate could become decisive.

While the team management works through the qualification possibilities, the players must first recover from a morale-sapping defeat to South Africa and address some glaring concerns. The opening pair of Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma have largely delivered, but the middle order remains a worry. Yastika Bhatia, who returned from a lengthy injury layoff less than a month ago, has struggled at No. 3. Her lack of runs has drawn attention, especially since Jemimah Rodrigues and Harmanpreet Kaur have both moved down the order to accommodate her in that role.

Yastika's form, coupled with concerns over her fitness, presents a dilemma for the team management. Beyond simply contributing runs, India's middle order must also improve its scoring rate if the side is to challenge the stronger teams in the tournament.

Bowling is another area that requires attention. India have used as many as eight bowlers in three matches, yet only four have managed to take wickets. In a bid to strengthen the batting, the side has opted for a spin-heavy attack, with Nandani Sharma and Kranti Gaud serving as the frontline pace options. However, neither has made a significant impact in the wickets column so far.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, enter the contest on the back of a confidence-boosting win over Pakistan. Nigar Sultana and her team have built their campaign on collective contributions rather than individual brilliance, and they will look to draw on that team-first approach once again against India.

For India, though, the equation is clear: beat Bangladesh, stay in control; lose, and the semifinal race could slip out of their hands.

Brief scores: Australia: 199/7 in 20 overs (Georgia Voll 39, Ellyse Perry 71; Sadia Iqbal 2-31, Rameen Shamim 2-34, Nashra Sandhu 2-33) bt **Pakistan: 86 all out in 13.4 overs** (Muneeba Ali 32; Sophie Molineux 2-6, Annabel Sutherland 2-12, Ellyse Perry 2-9).

IANS

TOUGH RUN: Yastika Bhatia

BGC marks sesquicentennial

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Golf Club (BGC) marked a milestone on Wednesday as state chief minister DK Shivakumar unveiled a commemorative statue as part of the club's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The event, held at the club premises, brought together members, former administrators and dignitaries to honour the rich legacy of one of India's oldest golf clubs. Shivakumar also released a coffee table book.

GOLF

As part of the celebrations, a series of infrastructure and sustainability initiatives were inaugurated. Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai inaugurated the club's solar power project, while Shivakumar inaugurated a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

Speaking on the occasion, Shivakumar called on the management and its influential members to take forward the legacy of the club in a tangible way.

"I'm here not as a CM but as a member and frankly I'm ashamed of the development work. The members of the club are distinguished people in the society. In the past 150 years, the BCG, according to me, should have created 3-4 more golf courses," said Shivakumar.

A long standing member, the chief minister added, "I don't believe in reading or writing history but creating history. Bengaluru is growing and we should keep up with it. At least going forward, the BGC should look at creating more golf courses."

STRAIGHT TALK: DK Shivakumar

Blasters survive scare

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Less than 24 hours after a 72-run loss to Mysore Warriors, Bengaluru Blasters bounced back in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 here on Wednesday. At the SDNRW Stadium here, they defeated Coastal Kings Mangaluru.

For Coastal Kings, it was a first defeat in three outings. Opting to bat, Bengaluru posted a formidable 226/6. Contributions flowed through the top and middle order, with almost every batter making an impact.

MAHARAJA TROPHY

In reply, Kings endured a shaky start. Opener Nikin Jose departed in the first over, while captain Karun Nair followed soon after for just 10, leaving the side reeling at 23/2 in 3.3 overs. Their troubles deepened as they slumped to 97/5 in the 12th over.

Just when it appeared all over, Suraj Ahuja launched a stunning counterattack. The 26-year-old smashed an unbeaten 96 off just 38 deliveries, striking five fours and eight sixes. At the other end, CA Karthik remained unbeaten on 49 off 27 balls

TOP KNOCK: KL Shrijith

Skipper Shubhang Hegde was the standout bowler for Bengaluru, returning figures of 2/31.

Earlier, wicketkeeper-batter KL Shrijith laid the foundation for Bengaluru's imposing total with a fluent 59 (33b; 7x4; 2x6).

Brief scores: Bengaluru Blasters: 226/6 in 20 overs (KL Shrijith 59, Samit Dravid 39, Shubhang Hegde 34, Pravin Dubey 45 n.o.; CA Karthik 3-49) bt **Mangaluru: 206/5 in 20 overs** (Suraj Ahuja 96 n.o., CA Ajith 49 n.o.; Shubhang Hegde 2-31).

Shivamogga Yodhas: 220/5 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 57, Naveen MG 75, Smaran R 37; Kumar LR 2-34, Vaibhav Sharma 2-48) bt **Hubli Tigers 178 in 19.3 overs** (MD Taha 44, Mayank Agarwal 28, Hardik Raj 43; Abhilash 4-25, Mohsin Khan 2-31).

MNK Rao Park ease to victory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

MNK Rao Park BC cruised past Bangalore Sporting 61-29, in the Super League stage of the State Youth (U-16) Basketball Championship in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Results: Boys: MNKR Park 61 (Dev Naidu 13) bt Bangalore Sporting 29 (Sai Kiran 22), S Blues 88 (Renorr 20) bt PPC 66 (Ronit 16), AVBC 63 (Amruth Kumar 16) bt Hebbal 33 (Yugha 10), Beagles 55 (Asher 23) bt Young Orions 53 (Aakash 18), IBBC 60 (Tarun 28) bt MCHS 40 (Advaith 13), Vimanapura 61 (Shreyash 17) bt HBR 56 (Samridh Sharma 18), MBK Rao 70 (Ujwal 26) bt AVBC 53 (Achyuth Kumar 22), S Blues 52 (Trinabh 18) bt Vimanapura 50 (Siddesh 16). **Girls:** Mysore 'A' 44 (Deeksha 8) bt MNKR Park 17, Beagles 50 (Aadya 19) bt Mounts Club 27 (Devishi Jha 7), B'lore Vanguards 66 (Suhanvi 18) bt DYES Vidyanagar 41 (Monika 11, Vibha 11), MCHS 50 (Saanvi 16) bt S Blues 29 (Veeksha 12), Vivek's SC 61 (Manasvi 25) bt Appaiah 43 (Hiranmayi 15), Beagles 51 (Nethra 14) bt MCHS 41 (Livdeep 13).

BASKETBALL

Yarraji shines; Anushka, Meena break NR

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Bhubaneswar: Jyothi Yarraji made a memorable comeback from injury to finish on top of the podium in the 100m hurdles on the opening day of National Inter-State Athletics Championships as 18-year-old Anushka Yadav and Dev Meena created national records in the women's hammer throw and men's pole vault, respectively, at Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

Yarraji suffered her injury on this day last year, June 24, and subsequently missed the World Championships. But she worked hard on her recovery and, in her first competition since returning, bagged the gold with a time of 12.99s to qualify for Asian Games. Nandhini K of Tamil Nadu finished second in 13.22s and also secured qualification.

ATHLETICS

But the result that took everyone by surprise was Anushka breaking the women's hammer throw national record of 65.25m set by Sarita Singh at Federation Cup in Patiala in 2017 and by doing so she became the youngest national record holder in the country. She first surpassed the mark with a throw of 65.64m in her second attempt before improving it further with a 67.02m effort in her sixth and final throw. She had also won the gold at the National Games last year with a personal best throw of 62.89m.

Madhya Pradesh's Meena, meanwhile, continued his impressive form and cleared 5.46m on his third attempt to better his own national record and qualify for the Asian Games. He had earlier secured qualification for the Commonwealth Games as well and will be hoping to improve further at the two major events.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 6 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Indian women's hockey team could field same core players for World Cup and Asian Games, scheduled 20 days apart, chief coach Sjoerd Marijne hints

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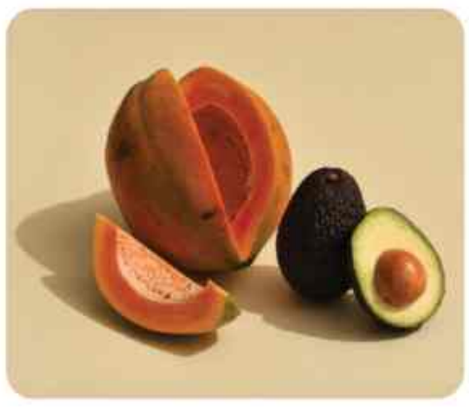

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

French Open champion Mirra Andreeva falls in her first match since her Roland Garros victory, losing 6-3, 6-4 to Ekaterina Alexandrova at Bad Homburg, Germany

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An Ajmer legend whistles past 150

Set up in 1876, the Ajmer Railway Workshop gave India its first indigenous locomotive and spawned a cosmopolitan culture as a diverse set of people made the city their home

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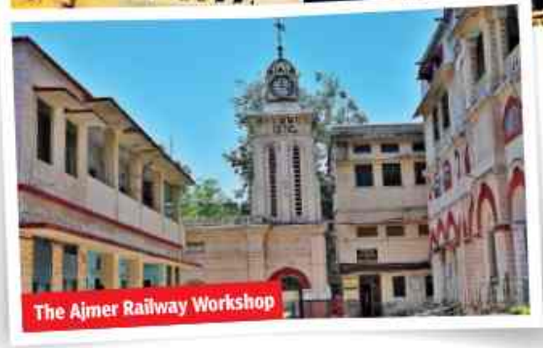
Some of the sounds of Ajmer are age-old. Like the cry of the azaan at the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Or the bells of Mayo College, ringing through corridors trod by the sons of the well-known and well-heeled. A third, perhaps less perceptible now, is provided by the sirens at Ajmer Railway Workshop, which quietly chugs into its 150th year in Aug, mostly without remark but still bearing a precious part of the city's identity.

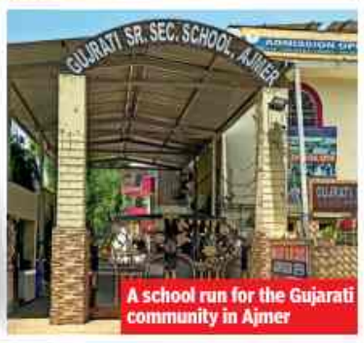
If the dargah brings seekers of the 13th century Sufi mystic's grace from near and far — as it drew Mughal Emperor Akbar over four centuries back — and the school imparts an aristocratic gloss to the city, it is the railway workshop that gave Ajmer a remarkably cosmopolitan character, still very much evident even if not as palpable as it once was.

Photos: Shaukat Ahmed

F-1/734, the first locomotive made in India, rolled out of the Ajmer workshop



The Ajmer Railway Workshop



A school run for the Gujarati community in Ajmer

The railway workshop produced everything from locomotives to defence equipment during WW-1, while the people and communities it drew made Ajmer their home and left their imprint on the city of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti and Mayo College

Jewish cemetery

Parsi temple

Melting Pot

Set up in 1876 — a year after the opening of Mayo College — under the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, what began as a modest repair facility grew into a key pillar of Indian Railways. It was also the third-oldest railway workshop in undivided India.

But its story runs beyond machines and tracks. British and Jewish engineers, Parsi technicians, and workers from present-day UP, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra didn't just work here — they settled, built homes, and formed communities. Over time, their presence gave Ajmer a distinctly cosmopolitan character, still visible in colonial bungalows, old railway institutes, churches, the Jewish cemetery near Ana Sagar, Parsi fire temples, and markets shaped by trading families like the Agarwals.

Some railway colonies still carry fading Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (BB&CI) markings on their walls. In older neighbourhoods near the workshop, rusted iron gates, century-old rainwater pipes and sloping tiled roofs survive amid newer construction. In many ways, the workshop became the centre around which modern Ajmer grew.

The workshop's arc also mirrors national history: from building India's first indigenously made steam locomotive in 1895 to becoming a munitions hub during WW-I. During the war years, it produced artillery like 12-pounder guns and thousands of howitzer shells, and built fully equipped armoured trains fitted with machine guns and communication systems for deployment in war zones such as Mesopotamia.

But the workshop's most enduring impact may be social. As the railway network drew people from across India and abroad, Ajmer became one of Rajasthan's earliest cosmopolitan cities.

Enduring Signs

British and Anglo-Indian communities established clubs, churches and residential colonies that shaped Ajmer's colonial character. The Railway Institute became a major social centre with ballrooms, and sports and cultural events.

The workshop also reshaped Ajmer's urban landscape: planned colonies, churches, officers' bungalows and institutional campuses grew around the railway zone, leaving a colonial imprint that still survives in parts of the city.

Bengalis arrived largely as teachers, clerks and railway officials. Institutions like Mayo College attracted Bengali educators who contributed to literature, theatre and music in the city. Gujarati traders expanded businesses in textiles, grain trade and transport, while Agarwal businessmen became deeply linked with Ajmer's commercial economy.

Prashant Patel, a fourth-generation Gujarati tobacco businessman, recalled stories of his great-grandfather, who moved from Gujarat to Ajmer for business after the railways arrived. "Ajmer embraced us like its own. Not only have we preserved our cultural practices, but Gujarati continues to be widely spoken in Ajmer's trading communities," said Patel.

Sister Pearl, principal of Sophia College, said the railways also helped seed institutions such as Mayo College, Sophia College, St. Anselm's School and several convent schools, laying the foundation for the city's educational culture. "Even the railways opened a school for British children and others. The attendance sheets are still preserved, and many people who spent their childhood here continue to visit the place," she said.

Parsis played an important role in the workshop's technical development, arriving as engineers, technicians and supervisors. Their mechanical expertise made them indispensable in the early decades of railway expansion. Hosi Dorabshah, 78, living in Mount Abu, represents the fourth generation of his family to serve in railways. "My great-grandfather came to Ajmer from Gujarat and served in the railways. I also retired as a guard," he said.

Calling himself part of the "last generation" of Parsis in railway service, Dorabshah said there are now around 28 Parsis living in Mount Abu and about 15 in Ajmer — among the last remaining members of the community in the state. "My children have discontinued the tradition of joining the railways, and I expect that the younger generation will eventually move to Mumbai or Gujarat," said Dorabshah.

Many old Parsi and Anglo-Indian homes now stand locked or have been sold as younger generations migrate to Mumbai, Pune and abroad. Some railway quarters that once housed large Parsi families are now occupied by elderly couples or caretakers.

Ajmer's small Jewish community also arrived in the railway era. Nearly 300-400 Jews once lived in the city, many linked to railways. Today, the Jewish cemetery near Ana Sagar remains among the few visible traces of Rajasthan's Jewish heritage.

The workshop has continued evolving with railway technology. From nearly 15,000 at its early-20th-century peak, the workforce now stands at around 4,500 due to modernisation, and restructuring. Today, it maintains modern coaches and locomotive stock, freight wagons and premium trains, including Palace on Wheels and Vande Bharat.

Home school, pvt range and the making of a shooting star

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By 13, Esha Singh had become the youngest national champion in shooting. At 15, she was at the Olympics. Now 21, she holds a world record in the 25m pistol event. None of this perhaps would've happened but for a small visit she made when was 9, accompanying her father when he'd gone to meet friends at the Gachibowli shooting range in Hyderabad.

Twelve years later, the effort and the sacrifices speak for themselves, the arcs drawn by routine and regimen coming together in a shooting career that's taken her places and made her a constant in the national team. She is seen as an Olympic medal prospect like Manu Bhaker, the 24-year-old Haryana shooter who has been an inspiration and competitor at the same time for Esha.

"It's always been a friendly environment because it's always both of us," Esha says of Manu and herself. "We have been in the team for almost eight years. I think she (Bhaker)'s amazing competition for me. I think both of us motivate each other to play better. And every sportsperson should have somebody like that because, otherwise, you don't have somebody to compete with. It's a fun competition that we have. I'm grateful to have her by my side."

The initial push, though, was all family and Esha notes how her father has been the wind in her sails. "He is the main reason for what I am today," Esha says of her father. "He retired early from racing to focus on me. He is my rock. Whenever I do well or don't, I fall back on him for guidance," she added. The support includes a shooting range at home, put in place in 2015. "It takes a long time to reach the Gachibowli academy. So, I built a range at my home for her," said Sachin Singh, a former rally racer who now runs a sports shop in Secunderabad.

Her mother, Srilatha — whom Esha calls her "best friend" — talks of the leap of faith the couple took when their daughter turned to shooting, including the decision to homeschool her from class 4. "I was a typical South Indian mother and was worried about her education from the beginning. We never knew whether she would make it big in the sport; it was a gamble for us. Though her father was very confident," Srilatha said.

A two-time Olympian, Esha won four medals at the 2022 Asian Games, including a gold in the 25m pistol team event. Recently, she set a world record en route to a gold at the ISSF Shooting World Cup

The belief has now produced an impressive CV. Esha recently won gold in the 25m pistol event at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in the German city of Munich with a world record score of 43. In 2015, aged 13, she became the youngest national champion, defeating Bhaker and renowned shooter Heena Sidhu in the 10m air pistol category.

Esha, who was named in the core team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, won four medals at the 2022 Asian Games, including a gold in the 25m pistol team event and a silver in the 25m pistol event. In the same year, she bagged four medals, at the Junior World Championships. She represented India in the 2024 Paris Games and finished 18th in the qualifiers for 25m pistol.

Away from the shooting range, Esha's world moves to a different beat. But she's not complaining, making the most of the time she gets to unwind. Her routine, she says, changes depending on whether she is at the national camp or at home in Hyderabad during breaks from competitions.

"When I am in Hyderabad between tournaments or training camps, I usually don't train. But if it is a longer stay, I will go to the shooting range at Gachibowli to practice." Those short windows at home are precious for her. "I like to spend time at home. I like to talk to my mom a lot and gossip. I love the food she cooks."

There is also the side of her that wants to experience the city like any other young adult. "I love to go out with my friends to explore new cafes. Whenever I am in Hyderabad, I like to explore. I have been playing pickleball recently. It is less draining, and you don't feel very exhausted."

What Esha says she has missed, though, is the ordinary rite of passage that most people her age take for granted. Though she has a BBA degree, Esha has rarely had the chance to experience college life in the usual sense. "I miss not having a college life. I missed the opportunity to make friends in college. But I have much more experience touring internationally. I think I have grown in different aspects of life, which many people do in their 30s or 40s. I know how to deal with pressure, which people learn to do in a corporate job quite late in life."

PM urges states to roll out e-Zero FIRs in cyber frauds

Move To Spare Victims From Harassment

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Modi expressed concern over rising misuse of digital platforms to defraud citizens

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday advised states to start registering e-Zero FIRs in cyber crime cases so that victims who already have lost their money are spared the harassment of running from one department or agency to another, including the police station, where the crime was commissioned. Taking note that only nine states have this system in place, Modi directed PMO officials to take this up with each chief secretary and DGP of states for faster roll out of e-Zero FIRs across the country.

Reviewing grievances related to cyber crime and digital arrest at PRAGATI meeting where chief secretaries from all states were present, the PM said he will review the progress of e-Zero FIRs.

These FIRs help investigators immediately start the probe against criminals who are very agile and whose trail can soon vanish.

The e-Zero FIR is a digital initiative by Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) that automatically converts verified, high-value cyber financial fraud complaints into Zero FIRs.

It allows victims to bypass jurisdictional barriers and fast-track the blocking of fraudulent transactions and investigations.

In an official release, the PMO said Modi expressed concern over rising misuse of digital platforms to defraud citizens and stressed that such matters "require coordinated, sensitive and time-bound handling by all agencies concerned".

He also emphasised the need for clear ownership, faster response, better coordination among law enforcement agencies, banks and digital platforms, and stronger public awareness campaigns.

"The Prime Minister observed that in cases involving cyber fraud, timely action is crucial to prevent financial loss and restore public confidence," the official statement said. While reviewing TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, the Prime Minister suggested assigning one block each to a Class-1 officer and create a team of NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers, for awareness, patient follow-up and community mobilisation.

He asked chief secretaries from four states and one UT — West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat and Ladakh — to spell out the plan to achieve the goal.

Reviewing projects, Modi stressed on the use of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for efficient planning and timely implementation while underlining the need for regular and timely updation of project details, utilities, infrastructure layers, clearances and other field-level information on the portal.

Passport row: No clarity on valid citizenship docus

▶ Continued from page 1

While hearing the case involving EC's SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, an SC bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said on Aug 12, 2025, "The use of Aadhaar while filing claims and objections would strictly be as proof of identity and not as evidence of Indian citizenship."

X users reacted sharply to MEA officials' observations on passport. One user posted an image of a passport showing nationality as Indian and asked, "What is this then??" Another wrote: "Passport is not a document of citizenship, Aadhar card is not a document of citizenship, Voter ID card is not a document of citizenship. Then what is??"

One user called the statement "bizarre", posting, "The very ministry of external affairs that issues our passport so we can prove we are Indian citizens abroad, now says it's not proof of citizenship? Does our own passport hold no value in our own country anymore?"

However, courts in the past have stated that a passport doesn't conclusively prove a person's Indian citizenship. In a 2013 ruling, Bombay HC held that an Indian passport alone was not definitive proof of citizenship. There appears to be little clarity on what documents are legally valid in establishing citizenship. Govt's PIB, in an Q&A related to the NRC had stated on Dec 20, 2019: "Citizenship can be proved by submitting any documents related to date of birth and place of birth. However, a decision is yet to be taken on such acceptable documents."

Rajesh Exports failed to produce foreign transaction record, says ED

▶ Continued from page 1

On the "investment" in African mines, the sEnforcement Directorate said, "Rajesh Exports Ltd failed to produce documentation in respect of its foreign transactions, including its imports, exports, overseas investments, and settlement of foreign trade receivables and payables, thereby rendering verification of the genuineness of such transactions almost impossible," the agency added.

The Enforcement Directorate carried out physical verification of stock during searches and found that "a difference of 40% between the stock recorded in factory registers and the actual physical stock found at the premises".

The Enforcement Directorate claimed that the company was engaged in "suspicious block trades in REL scrip executed by certain individuals."

2021 Mundra port drugs seizure: ED arrests Delhi nightclub owner

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday arrested Harpreet Singh Talwar, a known figure in Delhi's party circuit who once held the nightclub franchise of Playboy Club, for smuggling drugs in collusion with Pakistanis and Afghan nationals allegedly aligned with ISI.

Talwar, who ran the nightclub from Samrat Hotel and was linked, along with others, with the seizure of drugs worth Rs 21,000 crore by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence from Mundra port in 2021, has been accused of deploying narco money in his hospitality business. Also known as Kabir Talwar, he was arrested after ED carried out searches on five of his premises in the national capital. He was earlier arrested by NIA for allegedly being one of the key members of an international drug syndicate, which had origins in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

'Medical education to suffer if pvt colleges charge govt fee rates'

▶ Continued from page 1

The annual tuition fee cannot be the same in a private medical college and a govt one. In the self-financing private colleges, every expense is to be borne by the colleges whereas the govt subsidies the expenses in the colleges under it," Justice Nagarathna said.

"The private colleges are also contributing in the field of higher education, including in the medical stream. If they are asked to take fees at govt rate, then they will close down and the medical education would suffer. If other states have implemented the EWS quota and if Rajasthan has not done it, the courts cannot direct private colleges to reduce fees," she further said.

The petitioner whose parents in Rajasthan have an annual income of less than Rs 8 lakh, cleared NEET-UG 2025, said that he was "arbitrarily" allotted a general category seat in a private medical college and that Rs 19 lakh being demanded of him was way beyond his means.

His counsel Rishabh Sancheti on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court bench that students in EWS category, who had scored less marks than him in NEET-UG, were allotted EWS quota seats where the candidates pay annual fee for MBBS courses at govt fixed rate which is way less than the general category seats in private colleges.

The counsel further said the Rajasthan HC failed to appreciate that non-provisioning of 10% seats for EWS category students in MBBS courses by the Rajasthan govt breached the constitutional mandate and permitted extortion of Rs 19 to 25 lakh annual tuition fee from poor families. The petitioner student also challenged the arbitrary allotment of a general category seat instead of an EWS quota seat.

Sancheti said that states like West Bengal and Maharashtra have fully implemented the 10% EWS quota even in private colleges. Justice Nagarathna said.

"We do not see any reason to interfere with the Rajasthan High court order," the top court bench said and dismissed the petition while asking the student to avail of scholarships to pursue his studies. However, knowing the importance of the issue, it said the question of law involved in the case is kept open for adjudication in a future appropriate case.

BJP accuses Kharges of land grab, rejects charges against MP CM Mohan Yadav

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP Wednesday accused Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and his son Priyank, a Karnataka minister, of "land grab" in their home state for ostensible purposes as diverse as setting up of ventures in aerospace and defence and promotion of the Pali language.

It is the Congress dispensation in the state that has enriched them through their family trust, BJP alleged, marking an apparent distinction with the charges against Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav's extended family members allegedly purchasing several chunks of private land since he took office in 2023. It also said, "Public land that was earlier (Karnataka) govt's and public property was handed over to Mallikarjun Kharge's private trust."

Mallikarjun Kharge, Mohan Yadav

Stepping up its attack, Congress accused BJP and RSS of patronising corruption, while seeking a SC inquiry into the MP issue. MP Congress chief Jitu Patwari said there are many instances where powerful people in the state have bought land in areas where new roads and highways are to be constructed.

Daring the Congress govt in Karnataka to take action against the Kharges, BJP said, "Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyank Kharge have created a new modus operandi of land grab in Karnataka under the name of Siddharth Vihara Trust, which reminds of the Gandhi-Vadra family's land grab." The party has dismissed the charges against Mohan Yadav as baseless.

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said, "Valuable lands were given to the trust, whose members also include Congress president's wife and son-in-law, in Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, and Banashankari." He added, "Did Mallikarjun Kharge use his power and influence? Did Priyank Kharge use his power and influence? Was Karnataka's five acres of industrial land, worth Rs 100 crore, privately grabbed." In 2024, Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board allotted five acres of land to the trust for the purpose of undertaking research and development in aerospace and defence sectors even though it has no link with the field, he said.

Meanwhile, reacting to the BJP, Karnataka home minister Priyank Kharge took to social media and said: "BJP is trying so so hard to please the RSS. People are asking for the accounts of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, but the BJP is working overtime to demand the accountability of Lord Buddha in Kalaburagi. You had five BJP chief ministers in Karnataka. Why did none of them act? Modi Sarkar has been in power for 12 years. If there was wrongdoing, why am I still roaming free and not in jail? My papers are publicly available and ready to discuss it on any platform. Now tell us, when will your political masters in the RSS show theirs?"

Shah to launch drive to destroy 2L kg of drugs

New Delhi: Union home minister Amit Shah will launch a nationwide "Drug Disposal Fortnight Campaign" this Friday to facilitate the destruction of more than 2 lakh kg of confiscated narcotics valued at Rs 6,000 crore.

The sweeping operation will anchor the 10th Apex-Level Meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre, which comes as the Union govt prepares to unveil its comprehensive battle plan against synthetic drugs and darknet-enabled trafficking over the next three years.

The meeting on June 26 will bring together key stakeholders from 44 ministries and central departments alongside 108 representatives from state govts and drug law enforcement agencies. TNN

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by THE TIMES OF INDIA

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REVEL

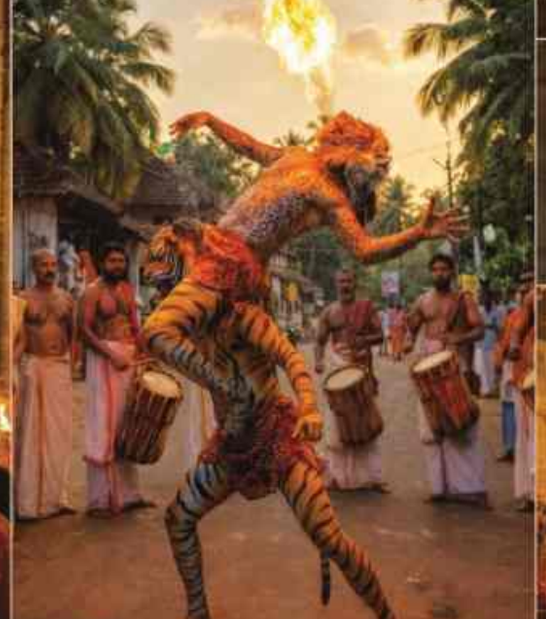
Gods descend, cities awaken
India celebrates

Durga Puja, Kolkata

AI Generated Images

Stand inside the sacred
Revel with the city

Janmashtami, Vrindavan

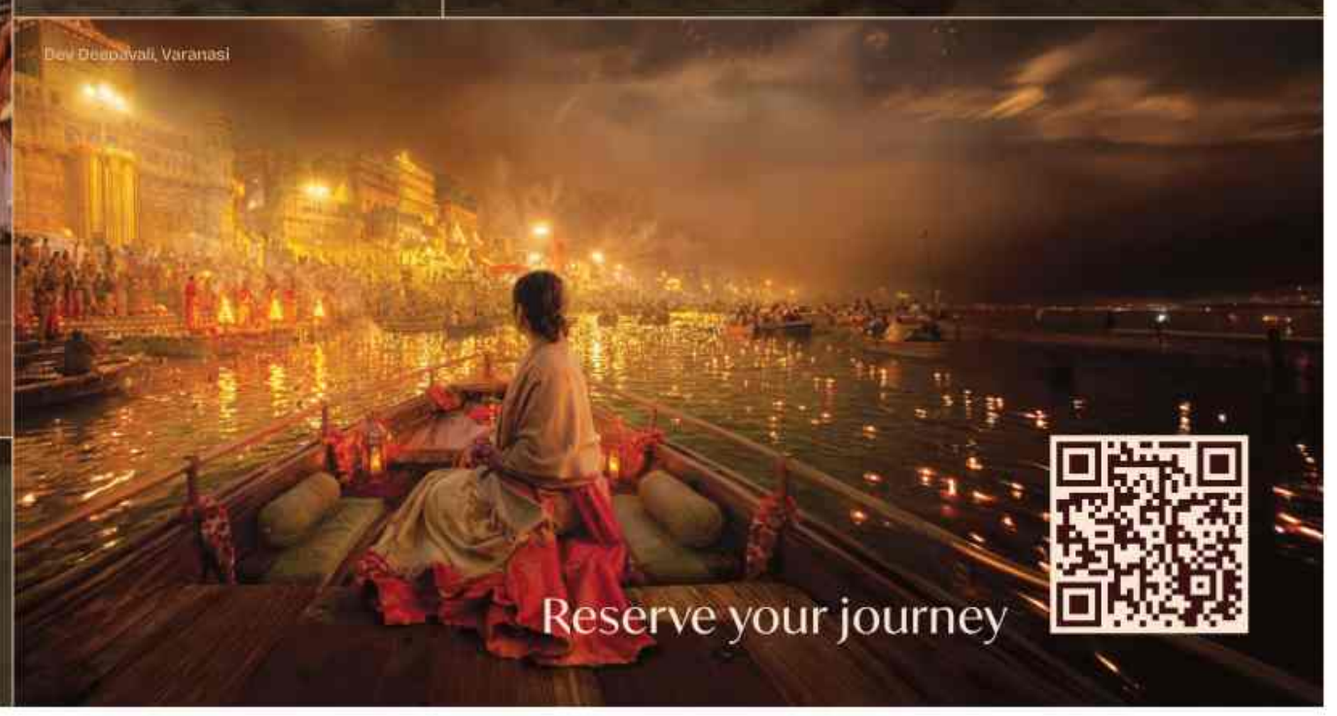

Onam, Kumarakom

23 – 26 Aug '26
Onam, Kumarakom
When backwaters fill with song & oar, stand inside the feast

3 – 6 Sept '26
Janmashtami, Vrindavan
When Vrindavan sings for Krishna, stand inside the song

14 – 17 Oct '26
Durga Puja, Kolkata
When Kolkata beats like a Dhak, stand inside the rhythm

23 – 26 Nov '26
Dev Deepavali, Varanasi
When a million flames light Kashi, stand inside the glow


Dev Deepavali, Varanasi

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

THE LESS YOU TALK, THE MORE YOU'RE LISTENED TO — PAULINE PHILLIPS

HUGH JACKMAN SAYS 'UNSETTLING' FIGHT SEQUENCE IN 'THE DEATH OF ROBIN HOOD' WAS THE 'HARDEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE'

AHEAD OF RELEASE OF CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S 'THE ODYSSEY', MICHAEL CAINE LENDS HIS AI CLONE TO VOICE THE AUDIOBOOK

Iran nuclear site inspections will go ahead, says IAEA chief

Tehran Refuses, Says No Access Till Final Deal Inked

Vienna: The UN nuclear watchdog will carry out inspections in Iran soon following an interim peace accord between the US and Iran, but modalities have yet to be finalised, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi said Wednesday. His statement was, however, rejected by Tehran which claimed that no inspections would be allowed till the two parties sign a final deal.

The two countries signed a 14-point memorandum of understanding last week setting out broad agreements in principle to end the war. The interim accord paved the way for 60 days of talks aimed at hammering out thornier details, including issues related to Iran's nuclear programme.

"The inspections will indeed take place," Grossi told a press conference in Japan, an audio recording of which the IAEA posted online. "We will be working on the modalities — dates, procedures, places — very soon," he said of discussions with Tehran.

Iran has not let the IAEA, which polices its nuclear programme, return to its most sensitive nuclear sites since the US and Israel bombed them in June last year. The IAEA has inspected other sites, but inspections were suspended after the US-Israeli attacks on Iran on Feb 28.

AFP

Residents stand inside their collapsed homes, destroyed in Israeli strikes, in the southern Lebanese village of Srifa on Wednesday

A central issue in talks is what will happen to Iran's highly enriched uranium, including material enriched to up to 60% purity, a short step from the roughly 90% of weapons grade. "Paragraph 8 of this memorandum of understanding states explicitly that nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regards to nuclear material, facilities, will be supervised by the IAEA, in bold letters," Grossi said.

"Obviously, to do that, we will have to inspect. Whether this happens the day after tomorrow, or in one week, or in 10 days, it's important but not essential. So this is going to happen. Of course, if they (Iran) want to comply with the agreement. If they don't want (to), it's another matter."

Iran has not informed the IAEA how much of its enriched uranium survived the attacks or where it is. The IAEA estimates Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched to up to 60% before Israel launched the first attack on June 13 of last year.

IAEA chief's statements were rejected by an Iranian diplomat who said that nuclear site inspections would only be possible after a final US-Iran deal.

Kazem Gharibabadi, a deputy foreign minister, made the comment on X. "No meeting was held with Grossi in Switzerland. Nor is there any plan for access to the facilities that were attacked or to nuclear material," he wrote. "These issues will be decided only within the framework of a final agreement and as a result of practical action by the other side to end all sanctions and other measures." AGENCIES

In rebuke to Trump, Senate OKs war powers resolution

The Senate for the first time approved a war powers resolution, seeking to block US military action against Iran, as lawmakers warily watch President Trump's efforts to resolve the conflict. It was the 10th time the Senate has tried to stop the war, and the outcome, on a vote of 50-48 on Tuesday, was a stunning turnaround from past efforts. While the resolution is largely symbolic, and does not carry the full force of law, it reflects the growing concerns from a number of Republican lawmakers. The House approved the resolution earlier this month. AP

Lebanon, Israel discuss scheme to hand over territory

Lebanon and Israel are discussing a US-backed proposal for Israeli forces to transfer some of the Lebanese territory invaded in their war with Hezbollah to Lebanon's military, officials on both sides said. The proposed pilot project is part of the latest round of Israeli-Lebanese talks in Washington. An Israeli drone strike on a car in southern Lebanon on Wednesday killed at least two people, Lebanese security and medical sources told Reuters, despite a new ceasefire. The Israeli military told Reuters it was checking the reports. REUTERS

Mamdani's picks sweep NY races as anti-establishment anger grows

Three candidates endorsed by Zohran Mamdani swept to victory in Democratic congressional primaries on Tuesday, showing that the coalition which powered the New York City mayor to a surprising victory last year is gaining strength. Some of the city's most established political figures were toppled in races that highlighted divisions within the party over ideology, Israel and immigration.

"New Yorkers are hungry for a new kind of politics," Mamdani said at a news conference in the Bronx on Wednesday morning. "What we saw last night was a hunger for leaders who will be there on the front lines looking to make it easier for working people to afford life in the greatest city in the world." Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander defeated two-term Representative Dan Goldman in New York's 10th Congressional district, while New York state lawmaker Claire Valdez won in the 7th district in Queens and Brooklyn. Darializa Avila Chevalier, a community organizer and graduate student, defeated incumbent Adriano Espaillat in the Democratic primary in the 13th Congressional District in Upper Manhattan, which includes parts of Upper Manhattan and the Bronx. Tuesday's Congressional primaries were viewed as a test of the political strength of Mamdani. In stepping in to key races to back candidates who shared his views, he strained ties with other longstanding Democratic leaders. It was a gamble that appears to have paid off. BLOOMBERG

Pew survey shows Trump's global approval tanking

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Time and again, US President and MAGA boss Donald Trump has claimed that foreign leaders have assured him that "we're the hottest country anywhere in the world" and the US was dead before he saved it. It is the global equivalent of the hottest nightclub in town, a place where everyone wants to get in, everyone wants to invest, and everyone, presumably, wants a selfie. It is also, according to a sweeping new survey released Tuesday, comically disconnected from how the world actually feels about Trump himself.

The 2026 Global Attitudes Survey by the Pew Research Center, which has been tracking global opinion of America for over two decades, now shows an overwhelmingly negative view of Trump, with a median of just 23% of adults expressing confidence in his leadership of world affairs. The MAGA supremo gets poor marks for his handling of virtually every major foreign policy issue Pew asked about, with a median of 74% of adults across 36 nations disapproving of how Trump is dealing with Iran.

Trump's tariff policies are also widely unpopular, with attitudes especially negative in nations with major trade ties with the US, including the UK (27% approve), India (18%), Canada (17%), Japan (15%), South Korea (14%), Mexico (11%) and Germany (8%). While the US receives its highest rating in Israel, at 81% favourable, and remains popular in African countries despite Washington's disdain for the continent, India is cooling off on Trump, with confidence

US President Donald Trump

in US President falling from 51% in 2025 to 39% in 2026.

The collapse in the notion of America as a reliable partner is particularly dramatic in the case of Canada. While the share of the public who considers the US a reliable partner has declined steeply across the world since 2022, Canada, America's next-door neighbour, largest trading partner, and fellow democracy, has watched its confidence in the US crater by nearly 50 points, going down from 83% during the Biden era to 35% today. There are divorces that have been less acrimonious.

Europe, in particular, is reacting to Trump with the enthusiasm usually reserved for a root canal. In France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and Italy, roughly three-quarters or more voiced negative views; Germany fell from 83% to 39%, and Sweden dropped from 83% to 31%. That is not merely a diplomatic cold shoulder that was palpable during the G-7 meeting; it is a geopolitical restraining order.

The global unpopularity might be more easily dismissed — Trump has never seemed troubled by foreign public opinion, depending on individual flattery to make his point — were it not for the fact that his domestic numbers tell a parallel story. As of this week, Trump's net approval in Nate Silver's polling average stands at -18.9, far worse than his net approval rating at this point in his first term.

One pollster has Trump's approval at just 30%, an all-time low in their series, with only 26% approving of his handling of the economy while 70% disapprove. Aggregated polling averages now place Trump's approval below 40% nationally, with disapproval approaching 60%. Most presidents retain at least one area of strength; Trump's ratings are now negative across all major policy domains.

In effect, Trump finds himself running two parallel PR campaigns: One is the America of his speeches, where foreign govts are allegedly desperate to sign deals, investors are flooding in trillions, and the US has become the most coveted address on Earth (only for the money; people are being turned away). The other is the America reflected in global surveys, where allies increasingly question Washington's reliability, confidence in US leadership has fallen sharply, and many nations view American foreign policy with suspicion rather than admiration.

Neither picture is entirely complete. The US remains the world's largest economy, its military alliances remain formidable, and many countries continue to rely on American power and munificence. Yet the Pew survey suggests influence and popularity are not the same thing. The US may still be the most powerful guest at the global party, but according to the survey, it is no longer the guest everyone is eager to sit next to.

'Indians don't pay': Trump junked Ukraine peacekeeping idea

▶Continued from P1

It was not the first time Trump was trying to nail India with fake numbers whose origins no one knew of. During an earlier meeting of the Technology CEO Council in the Roosevelt Room, Trump tried to pressure tech executives from major firms like IBM, Dell, and Intel to build factories domestically. To illustrate how poorly he believed the US was treated by trading partners, he claimed: "We're treated so unfairly. China tariffs us over 150 to 200%, India 175%."

The reality is India's average applied tariff rate sits nowhere near 175%. According to WTO, India's standard trade-weighted average tariff rate generally hovers around 10% to 12%. While India does maintain high tariffs on very specific, isolated luxury items (such as a 150% tariff on imported alcoholic spirits), claiming a blanket 175% rate across American trade was a total fabrication, but no one could convince Trump of this, not even official US trade data.

PTI/File

The book suggests that Trump administration's 'feelings over facts' foreign policy has plunged US-India ties to their lowest point since the Cold War

Govt statistics are often challenged in America — by economists who publish papers contesting them, think tanks that issue reports parsing them, and lawmakers who commission studies to understand them. Trump often chooses Option D: Yell at the numbers until they change. This is the same president who has repeatedly claimed that 25 million illegal immigrants flooded into the US under former president Joe Biden, a figure that would have increased the US population by 8% in just four years. It is also the same president who has boasted that his policies reduced drug prices by 800% — impossible unless pharma companies pay patients to consume medication.

The book also reveals that Trump's warped view of India isn't limited to the trade floor, it also extends to international peacekeeping. Just 10 days after the inauguration, during a Jan 30 Oval Office meeting to establish "commander's intent" for ending the Russia-Ukraine war, Lt Gen Keith Kellogg (Retd) presented the "America First Plan". The proposal suggested deploying peacekeeping troops from France, Britain, and the Netherlands to enforce a ceasefire. Veep J D Vance raised concerns, noting that putting Nato boots would poke the Russian bear; he asked if non-European nations could step up, specifically name-dropping Saudi Arabia or India. According to Haberman and Swan, "Trump chuckled."

"The Indians won't do that. They won't pay for something like that," the president reportedly said, noting that while PM Modi "really liked him" and wanted to visit the White House, "the Indians do not ever pay for anything".

Ultimately, the book suggests that the administration's "feelings over facts" foreign policy has achieved the near-impossible: plunging US-India ties to their lowest point since the Cold War, while a trade war with China backfired due to Beijing's monopoly on rare earths. But as history shows, when you can invent your own percentages, every disaster can be calculated as a win.

Andy Burnham inches closer to power in Britain as Keir Starmer seeks legacy

London: Andy Burnham took a step closer to becoming Britain's next prime minister without a contest on Wednesday when cabinet minister Darren Jones, touted as a possible rival, said he would not run. Meanwhile Keir Starmer, seeking to secure a legacy before he leaves office, faced the weekly PM's questions session in parliament before flying to Berlin to meet European allies for talks on Ukraine and West Asia.

Jones had been encouraged to run so that Burnham faces a test of his ideas and policies in front of Labour lawmakers. Others argue that a contest will only focus attention on the party's internal divisions and extend a period of political uncertainty.

Burnham is expected to make a speech next week outlining some of his economic plans. Nominations for the Labour leadership will open on July 9 and close a week later. If Burnham is the only contender, he could be PM by July 17. If there is a contest, the winner should be in place by the time parliament returns from its summer break on Sept 1. AP

Social Media

Multiple British PMs who have had short stints recently led to chatter on social media where users humorously tagged '10 Downing Street' to be used as short stays by travellers and tourists

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

Independent UN panel says Israel deliberately targeted Palestine kids, amounting to genocide

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The UN independent commission that examined violations and crimes against and affecting Palestinian children has found a clear pattern of conduct "showing the Israeli security forces directly targeted Palestinian children in different circumstances with the intention to kill them" and that it amounted to genocide.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel is chaired by S Muralidhar, former chief justice of Orissa high court. A press release on the report quoted Justice Muralidhar as saying, "Even after the Oct 2025 ceasefire, children continue to be killed and injured, with continued disregard by Israel for the ceasefire and for the protection owed to Palestinian children under international law."

In all the cases investigated and documented by the commission where children were directly targeted, none of the children posed any threat to the Israeli security forces, the report noted and added that medical professionals treated many children with direct gunshot wounds to their head and upper body, indicating they were shot by snipers, drones or quadcopters.

The sheer number of cases investigated and documented by the Commission showed a clear pattern that children were directly targeted by the Israeli security forces which constituted a key element in the Israeli authorities' genocidal intent to destroy the Palestinians in Gaza. The Commission found that the killing of and serious bodily and mental harm inflicted upon Palestinian children was part of a strategy to destroy the biological continuity and future existence of the Palestinian group in Gaza.

"Palestinian children have been arrested and subjected to torture and other severe forms of mistreatment in Israeli prisons and detention facilities, with no information on their whereabouts. Israeli security forces have also used sexual violence against children as part of the collective shaming and oppression, entrenched within a prolonged, ethnic, gendered, and intergenerational pattern of Israeli occupation," stated the report.

Based on its own investigations and documentation, the commission named several divisions, brigades or units of the Israeli security forces which could be responsible for the killing and injuring of Palestinian children in Gaza and the West Bank. The commission called for putting an end to the transfer of arms and other equipment or items, including jet fuel, to Israel or third States where there is reason to suspect their use in military trade or operations that have involved or could involve the commission of genocide.

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

Visitors flock to Trevi Fountain in Rome where city authorities recently introduced new access rules after monitoring heavy visitor flows

Swiss cinemas offer seniors a refuge as heatwave hits

Daniel Gillieron, 82, settled into his seat in Geneva's Nord-Sud cinema, looking forward to the prospect of a free film and an extended blast of air-conditioning as a heatwave baked the streets outside. He was one of hundreds of over-65s who have flocked to free daytime screenings organised by cinemas and regional authorities to give seniors a break. Temperatures are set to hit as high as 36°C this week in the city, according to the MeteoSuisse weather agency. "The hotter it gets, the more the cinema becomes a place of refuge," Laurent Dutoit, manager of three of the cinemas taking part, told Reuters. Around 650 people have taken up the offer since Thursday, he added. June is set to become one of the hottest on record in Switzerland, amid a heatwave that has swept across Europe. Daytime temperatures have climbed as high as 35°C in lowland areas, with some regions exceeding 36°C.

German expert panel suggests social media ban for under-13s

Germany should consider barring under-13s from running their own social media accounts, imposing strict child-safety measures on platforms and introducing a parental duty to prevent "digital neglect", a govt-appointed expert panel has advised. The commission submitted 56 recommendations to the family ministry for a strategy to protect children online, including the option of a social media ban for under-13s, according to a document published Wednesday. Govt welcomed the recommendations which are now set to be debated in the political arena. In addition to a legal ban on social media for under-13s, the panel also proposed tiered protection standards for the 13–16 and 16–18 age groups, seeking to shield them from online risks without excluding them from digital spaces.

US SC ruling raises travel risks for some green card holders

Lubna Kably | TNN

A routine trip to India could now carry unexpected immigration consequences for some US green card holders. In a significant ruling that could affect lawful permanent residents (aka green card holders) facing criminal charges, the US Supreme Court has recently held that border officials can treat a returning green card holder as someone "seeking admission" to the country rather than being "automatically readmitted".

A 6-3 decision in the case of Blanche v. Lau allows Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to make this determination at the border, with the govt permitted to establish the necessary proof later during removal proceedings. Immigration attorneys say the ruling substantially increases the risks associated with international travel for green card holders who have pending criminal charges or unresolved criminal matters.

According to Cyrus D. Mehta, a New York-based immigration attorney, the ruling permits authorities to treat a returning green card holder as seeking admission based on an indictment or suspicion, confiscate the green card and parole the individual into the country pending removal proceedings.

Getty Images via AFP

An SC ruling recently said that border officials can treat a returning green card holder facing criminal charges as someone 'seeking admission' to the country rather than being 'automatically readmitted'

"This is the 'time travel' that Justice Jackson's dissent forcefully criticises," Mehta said, adding that green card holders facing criminal charges should avoid international travel while their cases are pending. "Even someone charged with a petty offence such as shoplifting would be better off not travelling until the matter is resolved, as the green card could be confiscated and the individual may lose access to employment and other benefits available to permanent residents," he said.

Kripa Upadhyay, Seattle-based attorney and partner at Buchalter, said the ruling changes the risk assessment for green card holders contemplating overseas travel. "If a green card holder is deemed to be 'seeking an admission' and is detained or paroled, the government may initiate removal proceedings on inadmissibility grounds and in such proceedings, the individual carries the burden of defeating the charge. It is the opposite of deportation proceedings, where the government has to prove its case," she explained. According to her, a criminal charge, even without a conviction, can now have serious immigration consequences at the border. Even old arrests, convictions or seemingly minor criminal matters could attract scrutiny during international travel

Rekha Sharma-Crawford, an immigration attorney, said the ruling effectively weakens the traditional presumption of innocence for green card holders who travel while criminal charges are pending. "CBP can now classify such individuals as 'applicants for admission' based solely on pending charges. This classification can shift burdens of proof, increase risks of detention, and lessen constitutional protections," said Sharma-Crawford.

The common message from immigration lawyers following the ruling is clear: lawful permanent residents with pending criminal charges, unresolved criminal cases, or potentially problematic criminal histories should obtain immigration advice before travelling internationally, as a routine trip abroad could now carry significantly greater immigration risks.